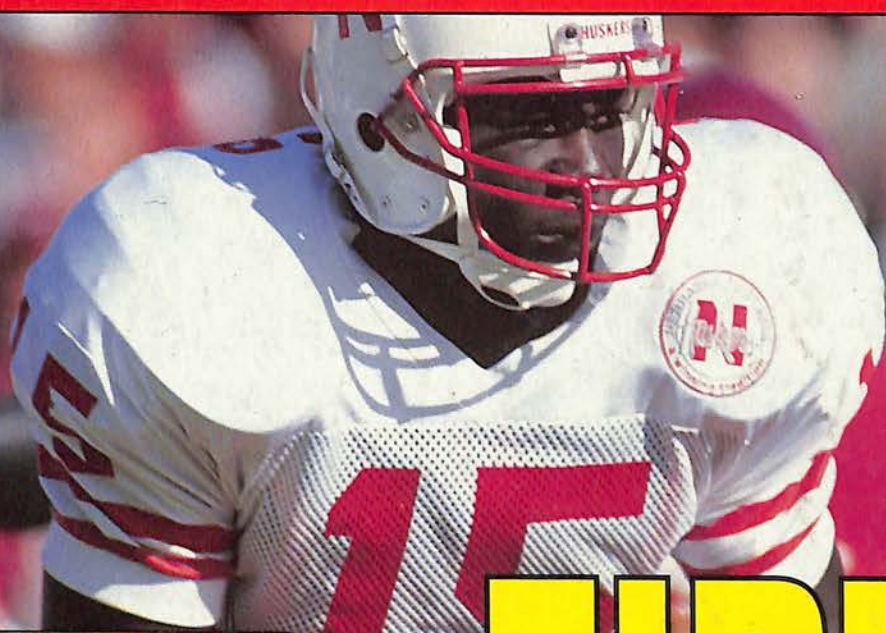




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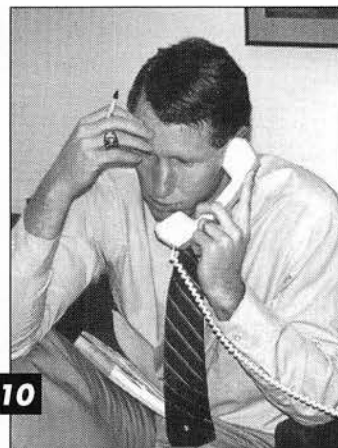
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FEATURES

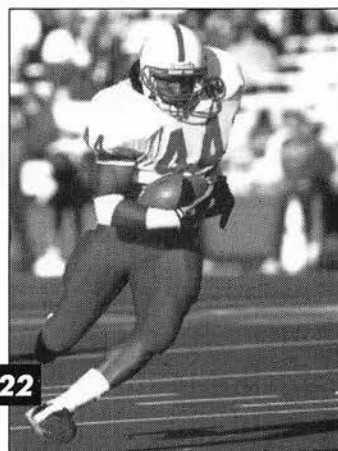
- 10 **Signed, Sealed And Soon To Be Delivered**
An overview of the 1993 NU football recruiting class.
by James Hale
- 22 **Unfamiliar Surroundings**
Osborne will be entering spring drills with an experienced quarterback.
by Mike Babcock
- 42 **Bob Cerv**
Former New York Yankee was pride of the Huskers.
by Mike Babcock



10

DEPARTMENTS

- 7 **Letters**
- 8 **State of the Huskers**
by Mike Babcock
- 14 **Recruiting**
- 26 **Hoops**
by Mike Babcock
- 36 **Items**
- 38 **All Sports Roundup**
by Steve Sipple
- 45 **Leadership Forum**
with Head Trainer George Sullivan
- 46 **Calendar of Events**

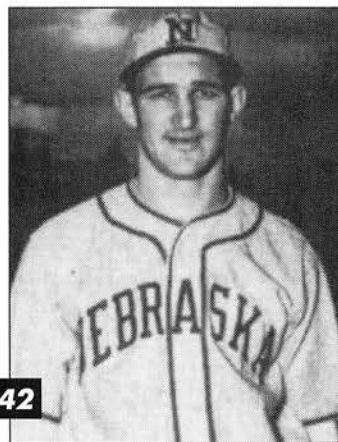


22

ON THE COVER

While Tommie Frazier and the NU football squad ready for spring practice, Jarone Boone and the Husker basketball team prepare for post-season play.

Photo by Dennis Hubbard



42

NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be the 1993 College Football Yearbook previewing the Big Eight and national college football season. Look for it in June.

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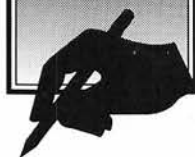
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FROM OUR
READERS



PUMPED FOR RECRUITING

I realize that there is a lot of work and time that is being put out by your staff to get the *Huskies Illustrated* recruiting special ready. A job that both I and many other loyal Nebraska fans appreciate. No one covers the recruiting class as well as you guys. All you get in the papers is stats and if you're lucky, a mug shot. But you guys give us all the scoop from the general stats to what the kids' high school coaches and Nebraska's own Dave Gillespie has to say. I love it.

I think we got a heck of a class coming in with players like Jason Peters, Eric Anderson, Michael Booker and Lawrence Phillips arriving on campus in the fall.

Every year Nebraska seems to get low ratings from the "so-called" recruiting experts. Well tell me experts, how do you account for

Nebraska's year-in and year-out success? It all starts with recruiting.

Bob Kretch
Lincoln, Neb.

HOOP HURRAH

I just wanted to take the time to tell you I've waited a long time for what has recently transpired in your magazine.

While I am first and foremost a football nut, I have always thought that the basketball team has had the potential to be a good club. You guys don't snub basketball, but you don't exactly emphasize it too much. I understand that during football season you want to get us our football information. I have no problem with that because if you didn't I would probably be writing another kind of letter.

In your last issue you had eight pages of basketball coverage plus a four-page feature on Danny Nee. This stuff is great. I love the way you recap games during the month and give us stats on the players. The schedule record is also a nice touch. Sure because of printing deadlines that you must face you can't get all the stats as up to date as you probably want, but

it's still great to see. Now I can see how my favorite guard in the country (Jamar Johnson) is doing against the competition. If you can possibly keep this up during the off-season, I know plenty of us will appreciate it.

Kevin Longmiller
Bloomington, Ind.

WHAT MAKES HIM TICK?

The story you had on Mike Grant in last month's issue was great (Question & Answer with Mike Grant). Most stories find interesting angles to a player's life; this format allowed us to really see what made this former quarterback tick.

I always thought that Grant got a raw deal at Nebraska after a great high school career, but now I think differently. He is a great credit to the program that Tom Osborne runs. Hopefully everything will work out for him in life.

Craig Dushant
Boston, Mass.

Please send your comments, pictures (no polaroids) and questions to Letters, P.O. Box 85211, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. ■

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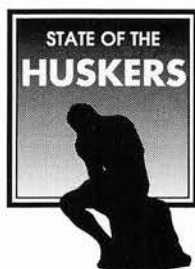
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Nebraskans Who Got Away Don't Number Many

Scott Frost's name was missing from the list when Nebraska's football letter of intent signees was announced February 3. Frost's absence drew considerable attention, as well as special mention by Coach Tom Osborne during his letter-of-intent day news conference.

"We felt badly we missed on Scott Frost," Osborne said.

Frost was a *Parade* high school All-American quarterback, so, of course, the Cornhuskers were disappointed about not getting his signature on a letter of intent. A program can never have enough quality athletes like Frost.

But beyond that, Frost was a Nebraskan, whose father played football for the Cornhuskers in the late 1960s and whose mother coached the Nebraska women's track and field team. She was Gary Pepin's predecessor.

Losing an in-state recruit, with such outstanding credentials and strong family ties to the university, was difficult. Even so, one player, however talented, doesn't determine the success of Nebraska's in-state recruiting, which, of necessity, is the basis for determining the Cornhuskers' recruiting success overall.

Recruiting begins at home, and "we're very pleased with the response we got from Nebraska players, not just this year but in the years I've been head coach," Osborne said.

Nebraska lost Frost, who signed a letter of intent with Stanford. "But on the flip side, of the eight players we offered in-state seven accepted," Osborne said. "It's been four years since we lost an in-state player (who was heavily recruited)."

That player was Omaha Creighton Prep's Junior Bryant, who started at defensive tackle for Notre Dame as a

senior last fall.

Because of its population base, Nebraska doesn't produce an abundance of major college football players. But nearly every one it does ends up a Cornhusker, either as a scholarship recruit or as a walk-on. "There aren't many places in the world where that happens," Osborne said. "There are an awful lot of pretty good football schools that bat maybe 50 percent in their immediate regions."

"You can almost count on one hand the players we've recruited heavily who we haven't gotten."

Among the in-state players who have gone elsewhere in recent seasons, Omaha Central's Larry Station picked Iowa over Nebraska and was an All-Big Ten linebacker. Central's Sean Ridley also chose the Hawkeyes but never really excelled for them.

Station and Ridley followed Central High's most famous football

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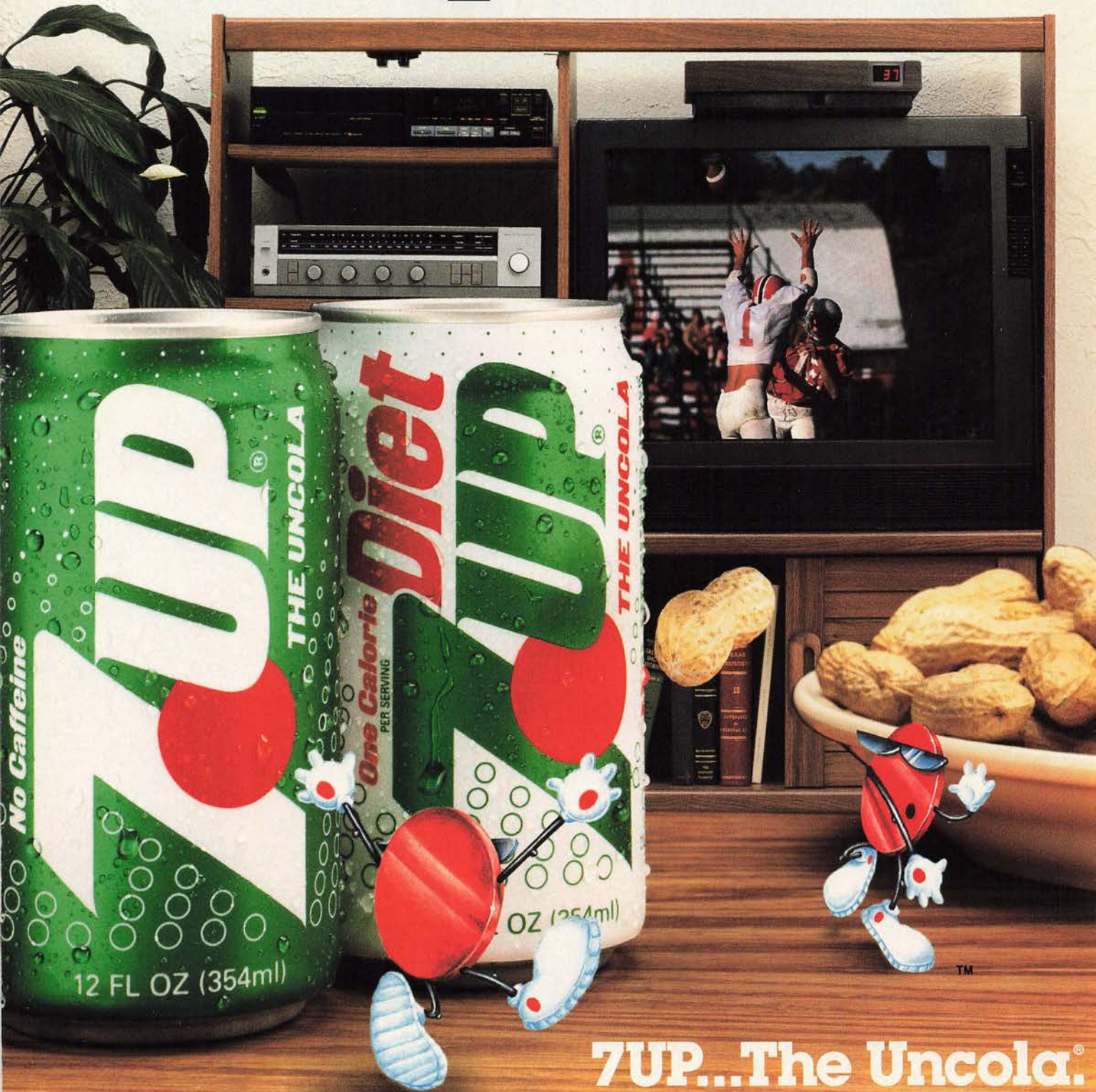
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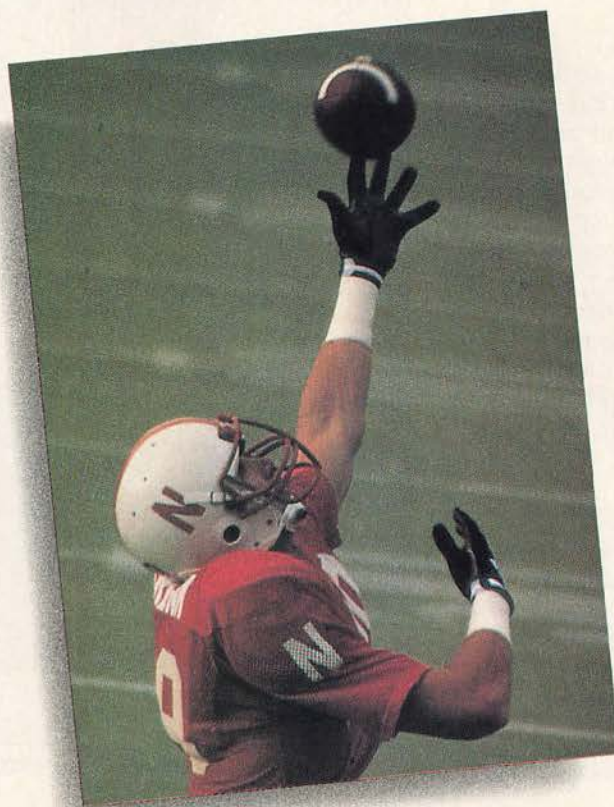
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export, Gale Sayers, who picked Kansas over Nebraska. But the best Central has had to offer in recent seasons have nearly always chosen the Cornhuskers, including I-backs Keith Jones, Leodis Flowers and Calvin Jones.

Schuyler's Marty Kobza was heavily recruited and accepted a scholarship from Arkansas instead of Nebraska, in part because he wanted to compete in track and field as well as football, which he gave up.

Few other in-state players of note have gotten away from Nebraska during Osborne's tenure as coach. Quentin Neujahr, Kansas State's All-Big Eight center from Centennial High in Utica, was asked to walk on because the Cornhuskers were short on scholarships at the time, and Nebraska didn't aggressively recruit Gothenburg's Jay Novacek, who went to Wyoming, or Rushville's Kelly Stouffer, who went to Colorado State.

Novacek and Stouffer have gone on to careers in the National Football League. Novacek played in the Pro Bowl this season and now wears a Dallas Cowboys' Super Bowl championship ring.

It's obvious the state produces some outstanding football talent. This season, 11 Cornhusker starters were from the state, including seven who were scholarship recruits. Nebraska's three-deeps for the Orange Bowl game included 23 in-state players.

This year's premier in-state recruit probably is Eric Anderson, a 6-foot-4, 290-pound lineman from Lincoln Southeast High. Anderson's credentials are comparable to Frost's. He was a first-team *USA Today* All-American, a Super-Stater and an excellent student.

Osborne called Anderson "one of the better linemen, offense or defense, in the state ever." That's high praise considering Cornhusker Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winners Dave Rimington and Dean Steinkuhler were both from the state.

Rimington came from Omaha South, among the state's largest high schools. Steinkuhler was from Sterling High, where he played eight-man football. The size of the Nebraska high school doesn't determine the quality of the football player it produces.

Frost played for his father at Wood River High School in Nebraska's third-largest classification.

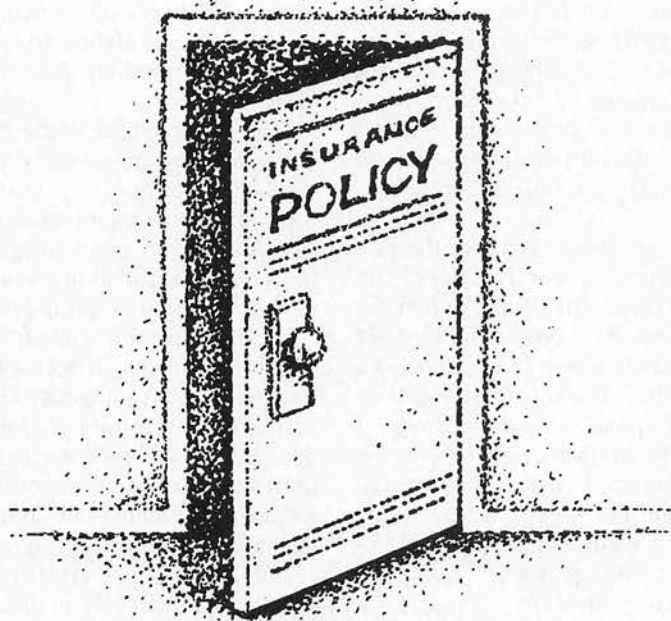
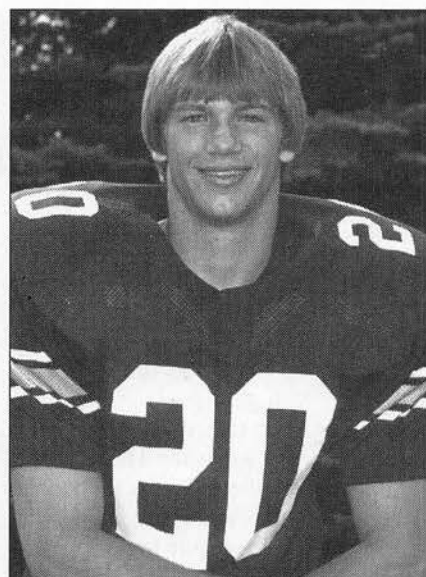
Osborne didn't try to hide his disappointment in Frost's decision to

attend Stanford, along with his brother Steve, a center who will transfer there from Colorado State and receive a scholarship. "He's a very good player. We've known about him and his brother since they were little children," Osborne said. "So we hated to miss on that one."

Osborne's program can live with seven of eight. However, "if that ever slips, we're in trouble," he said.

Success begins at home. ■

Current Dallas Cowboy tight end Jay Novacek, a Gothenburg native, said no to Nebraska and took his talents to Wyoming.



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By James Hale

It was a recruiting year in which Nebraska went into the final two weeks with its class far from complete. None of this tendency of the past few years when the Huskers had 90 percent of the class in the books heading into the final week. Nope, this class was far from put together with two weeks to go.

"It's hard to put your finger on why we had so few commitments late in the process," said Nebraska Recruiting Coordinator Dave Gillespie. "I think some of it was missing the first week of recruiting due to us being in Japan. That put us behind on several kids. It took us a little bit longer to overcome. That is really the only tangible reason."

However, one constant of the past did remain for the Huskers; the Nebraska preps still wanted to play for the Huskers. Five out of the first six commitments came from Nebraska preps. Eric Anderson of Lincoln Southeast spoke for the in-staters: "I am just like a bunch of guys that grow up in Nebraska. I've always wanted to be a Cornhusker."

Joining Anderson in committing to Nebraska early was in-state offensive lineman Fred Pollack of Omaha Creighton Prep, offensive lineman John Zatechka of Lincoln East, fullback Tim Carpenter of Columbus and wide receiver/free safety Matt Aden of Omaha Northwest.

"We felt that recruiting Eric (Anderson) was a priority for us," said Gillespie. "We were really pleased and relieved when Eric did make that decision."

Two more Nebraska natives would come aboard during the final two weeks: Lance Brown of Papillion and Vershan Jackson of

Slowed by playing in late December, Nebraska relied on a fourth-quarter rally of sorts and finished with yet another outstanding recruiting class.

Omaha South. In all, seven very talented athletes from the state of Nebraska formed the core of the '93 class.

The only member of the dirty half-dozen who committed early that we've failed to mention is junior college transfer Jason Jenkins of Dodge City (Kansas) Community College. Jenkins has already enrolled at Nebraska and is set to go through spring practice.

He'll team with another outstanding talent in Eric Alford of Garden City, Kansas, Community College to form an outstanding junior college duo. Alford will not come to Nebraska until the fall but he's worth waiting for; he's considered one of the top 20 talents in the junior college ranks.

"We came up with a couple of fullbacks and got the kicker. Other than that we just signed the best athletes that we could, which is what we try to accomplish every year."

— Gillespie

"Certainly Jason will play in the defensive line and we feel he can help right away," commented Gillespie. "Eric could be a defensive back or linebacker, but he'll start out on offense for us. We've got plans to use him at wingback or even I-back if he wants."

With about two weeks to spare the Huskers also managed to take care of the kicking needs when Shane Wells of Odessa (Permian), Texas said yes. Wells set school records at the prestigious Permian program with career PATs (133), career points kicking (181) and career field goals made (16). He also averaged 39

yards per punt and the Huskers hope he can do both during his career at Nebraska.

Heading down the stretch, still desperately needing a tight end, the Huskers searched from coast-to-coast and they landed three tremendous athletes.

Rodney Percoats of Los Banos, Calif., was being recruited as a tailback, fullback, tight end, outside linebacker and inside linebacker by various schools. Because of his athletic ability, the Huskers feel they have found the perfect tight end prospect.

Lawrence Phillips of Baldwin Park, Calif., is regarded as the second best back in California and is a tremendous combination of power and speed.

Rounding out the California connection is Mike Booker of Oceanside (El Camino), Calif. Booker was the last commitment received by the Huskers and was a great one to close with.

"Those three players really add a lot to this class," said Gillespie. "All three are great athletes and we've had good luck with players from California. Percoats is a great athlete that can be a game breaker at tight end; Phillips is a great runner along the lines athletically of our other great I-backs and Booker has great potential as a corner."

In the Southwest, Nebraska turned the head of Sean Noster of San Antonio (John Marshall), Texas. "I just kept thinking more and more about Nebraska," said Noster. "I couldn't get the Huskers out of my mind and my gut feeling was that I wanted to be a Husker more than any-

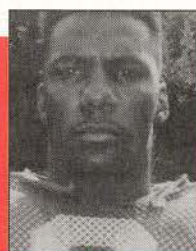
Arnold, Childs Have Chance at Scholarships

Apparently two heavily recruited Husker signees of a year ago have earned scholarships for the upcoming year barring any unforeseen downturns in schoolwork. Both Clinton Childs of Omaha North and Larry Arnold from Ohio figure to be Huskers next season. Childs is a 6-foot, 205-pound t-back with good strength and speed. Arnold is a 6-3, 215-pound outside linebacker with quick feet.

Coach Tom Osborne said two or three other ineligible signees from a year ago are on the bubble academically and might be awarded scholarships for next year.

With only 20 student-athletes signed during the 1993 period and the addition of Childs and Arnold, the Huskers still have three scholarships to give before reaching the NCAA limit of 25.

There is also a chance that two of this year's signees will have to sit out next season to get their grades up. It is not known if they will receive scholarships or go through school on their own so as to save their eligibility. ■



Clinton Childs (left) and Larry Arnold (below) could also be scholarship with this year's class.



thing else."

Noster and Wells were joined by Aaron Taylor of Wichita Falls Rider to form the triumvirate out of the Lone Star State.

Nebraska snuck into Oklahoma the final week and landed another outstanding prospect in Josh Heskew of Mustang. He was unstoppable at the noseguard spot, averaging 18 tackles a game, while double-teamed.

Returning to Tommie Frazier's home, Bradenton, Fla., the Huskers landed what they feel is a great inside linebacker prospect in Justin Stephens of Manatee and cornerback Leslie Dennis of Southeast High.

"I would say that Bradenton is becoming a pretty good area for us, at least the last two seasons," said Gillespie.

The Huskers topped off their recruiting with a trek to the Northeast. Ramone Worthy of Camden (Woodrow Wilson), N.J., is a distant cousin of former Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier.

Jason Peter of Middletown, N.J. completed a great career at Milford Academy in Milford, Conn. Jason chose to follow in his brother Christian's footsteps. Both brothers will play in the defensive line for the Huskers. Many regard Peter as the top recruit in the Northeast.

"We felt like the only real immediate needs we would like to fill were a young fullback and a punter/kicker," said Gillespie. "We came up with a couple of fullbacks and got the kicker. Other than that we just signed the best athletes that we could, which is what we try to accomplish every year."

The five in-staters had committed early but the other commitments were slow in coming. In fact, with a little over three weeks remaining in the recruiting period, the Huskers were in

major battles with top recruiters all over the country, and they weren't close to signing many.

The Huskers got some relief from the outstanding prospect in Wichita Falls, Texas. Aaron Taylor admitted

he was leaning toward Nebraska from the beginning.

"I already had two good friends on the team in Scott (Saltsman) and Aaron Graham (redshirt freshman offensive guard) who told me nothing

CLASS OF 1993

NAME	WT.	HT.	POS.
Matt Aden	6-3	195	FS/WR
Eric Alford	6-2	250	WB/DB
Eric Anderson	6-4	290	OT/DT
Mike Booker	6-2	200	CB
Lance Brown	5-10	165	SE
Tim Carpenter	6-3	230	FB
Leslie Dennis	5-10	165	CB
Josh Heskew	6-3	245	TE/NG
Vershan Jackson	6-1	215	FB/LB
Jason Jenkins	6-4	255	DT
Sean Noster	6-3	215	OLB
Rodney Percoats	6-4	250	TE
Jason Peter	6-6	290	DT
Lawrence Phillips	6-2	200	RB
Fred Pollack	6-4	290	OG/DT
Justin Stephens	6-2	210	LB
Aaron Taylor	6-2	295	OG
Shane Wells	5-7	160	P/PK
Ramone Worthy	6-1	215	RB/LB
Jon Zatechka	6-3	275	OT

but good things about the program," said Taylor. "So, it was just a matter of time before I would commit to them anyway, so I just got it over with early."

That was just great with the Huskers and they picked up Jason Jenkins to boot. In only two days, the Huskers had finally cracked the recruiting barrier outside of the state.

But eleven scholarships and only two weeks remained and there were no sure bets on the board.

The Husker coaching staff turned it on, opening the stretch drive with a bang in landing Percoats.

At the same time, Wells ended the suspense, committing a day after Percoats.

With 10 days left, the Huskers had yet to sign a prime-time running back and their two biggest recruiting plums were still looking the recruiting board over. Alford and Peter were the two top recruits still unsigned. Both were interested, but not only in Nebraska. If the Huskers could sign them, the 1993 class would be one of the nation's best. If not, they'd have to scramble for second choices.

So, the Huskers waited...and waited

1993 CLASS BREAKDOWN



Freshmen: 18

By State

Nebraska	7
California	3
Texas	3
New Jersey	3
Florida	2
Oklahoma	1
Kansas	1

Junior College 2

By Position

Offense	12
Linemen	4
Receivers	3
Running Backs	4
Wingbacks	1
Defense	7
Tackles	2
Outside Linebackers	1
Linebackers	1
Defensive Backs	3
Placekickers/Punters	1

...but of course stayed in pursuit. Just before the final weekend, the sixth in-stater, Brown, came aboard at wide receiver.

Phillips followed closely behind and the Huskers had their running back. USC wanted him to be its next O.J. Simpson. Arizona State, Illinois and Washington State were looking at him as a franchise runner. In the end, a

dream of becoming the Huskers' next Rozier, I.M. Hipp, Derek Brown or Calvin Jones won Phillips over.

"After really looking it over, I just didn't think anybody had the tradition at running back Nebraska had," said Phillips. "I want to be that next great Nebraska back."

See CLASS OF 1993 page 37

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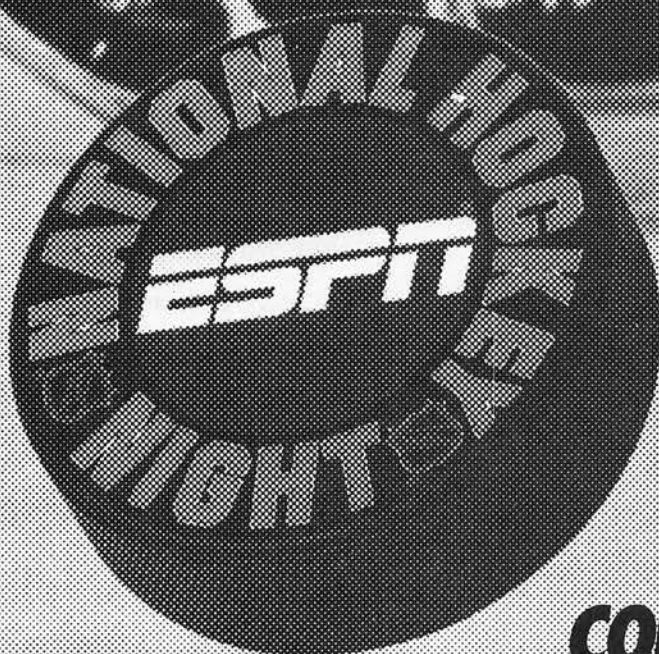
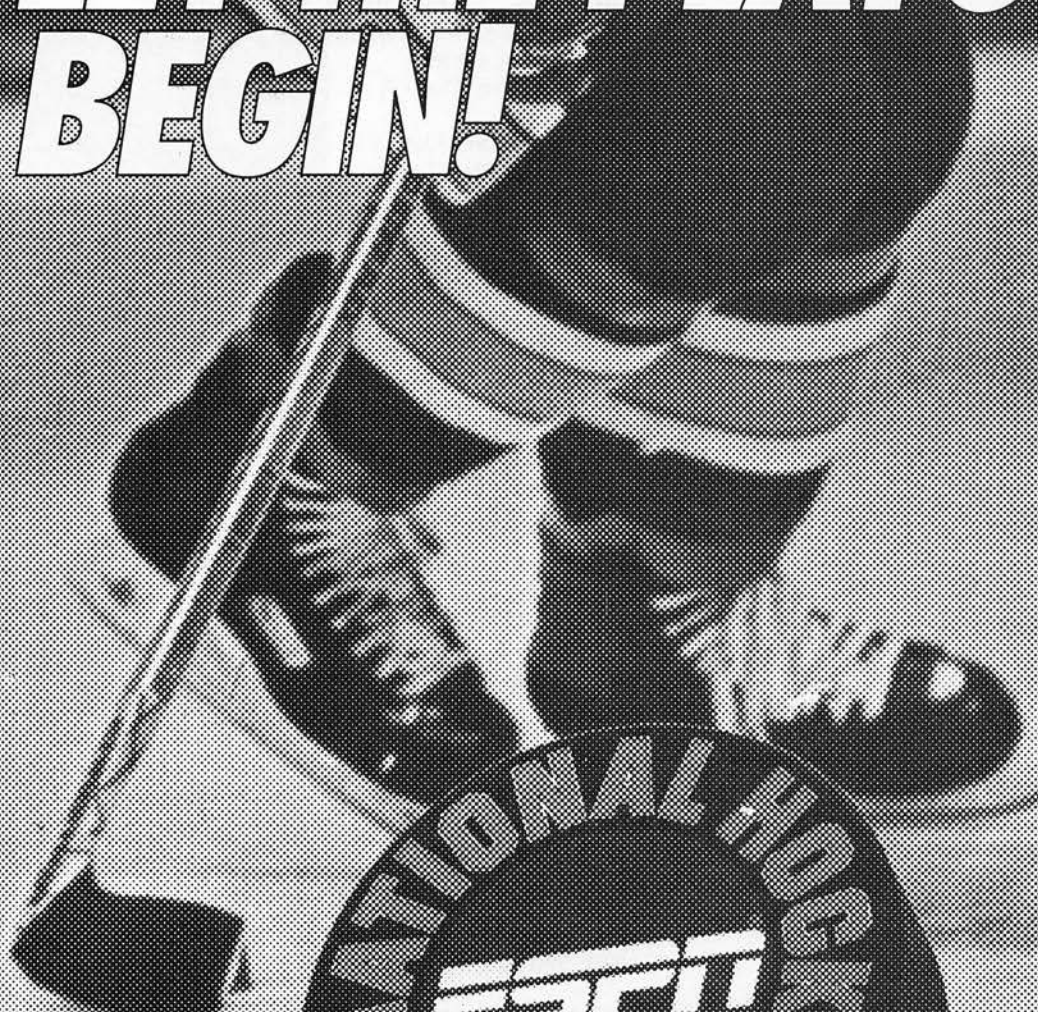
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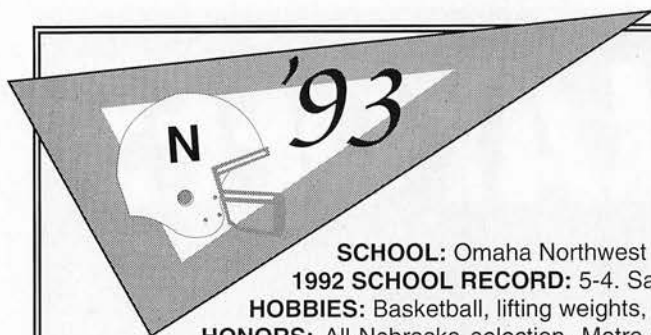


**STANLEY
CUP
PLAYOFFS
WALES
CONFERENCE**

APRIL 20

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MATT ADEN

FREE SAFETY/ WIDE RECEIVER

HEIGHT: 6-3

WEIGHT: 195

SPEED: 4.3

BENCH: 260

BIRTHDAY: Nov. 23, 1974

SCHOOL: Omaha Northwest (Nebraska); 2 year starter

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 5-4. Saw no playoff action in Class A.

HOBBIES: Basketball, lifting weights, music

HONORS: All-Nebraska selection, Metro Coaches Association's Defensive Back of the Year, First-Team Super-State by the *Lincoln Journal Star*, Academic All-State.

OTHER SPORTS: Basketball (3 letters), baseball (3 letters)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska

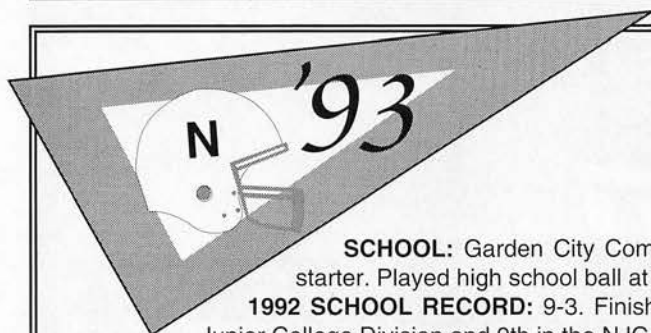
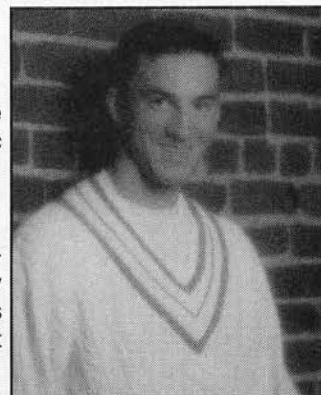
HIGH SCHOOL COACH FRANK HANEL: "Matt has tremendous athletic ability and possesses outstanding speed, good hands and picks up things well. For a kid who didn't play until his senior year he has done real well. As far as I know, he has never lifted weights under supervision and has a lot of growth potential. Once he gets into Nebraska's weight program he will fill out."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "A player that has great speed and will probably start on the defensive side of the ball at safety. He could always move over to offense at receiver because he has very good hands. However, he looks like the perfect safety with good athletic ability. We think Matt is going to be a very good player."

WHY NEBRASKA: "They were the first school to really contact me. A lot of schools didn't know about me and didn't start to come after me until I had verbally committed. I also liked the idea of staying close to home so that my friends and family could come watch me play. I'm also interested in playing baseball here next year."

CAPSULE: Thought his future was in basketball so didn't go out for football until senior year. Picked up the safety position quickly and recorded 78 tackles (44 solo) while also picking off five interceptions and causing five breakups and two fumbles. Offensively, Aden caught 24 passes for 693 yards and nine touchdowns. He also rushed for two touchdowns on nine carries and ran back a 98-yard kickoff for a touchdown.

SON of DIANE and HARLAN ADEN



ERIC ALFORD

WINGBACK/ DEFENSIVE BACK

HEIGHT: 6-1/2

WEIGHT: 225

SPEED: 4.3

BENCH: 320

BIRTHDAY: Aug. 12, 1972

SCHOOL: Garden City Community College (Kansas); 2 year starter. Played high school ball at Highpoint, N.C.

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 9-3. Finished ranked No. 1 in the Jayhawk Junior College Division and 9th in the NJCAA final rankings.

HOBBIES: Basketball, running

HONORS: Honorable mention All-American, named to *SuperPrep* JUCO 100 list, Jayhawk Conference MVP

OTHER SPORTS: Track (2 letters, national and state champion long jumper) personal best is a 51-foot triple jump and a 25-foot long jump; basketball (1 letter)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Idaho State, Maryland

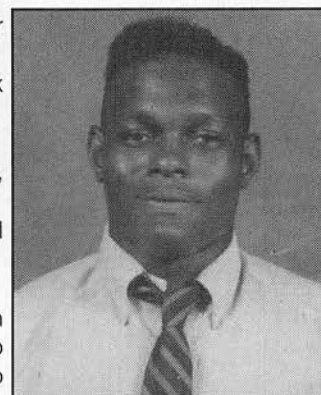
JUCO COACH JEFF LEIKER: "He's a pro-type athlete who has all the tools. He can run and can long jump 25 feet, no sweat. Eric was a three-sport letterman here and that's no easy task. He's a tremendous competitor and loves to play. Sports are his life. He also has great hands and can adjust well to any situation."

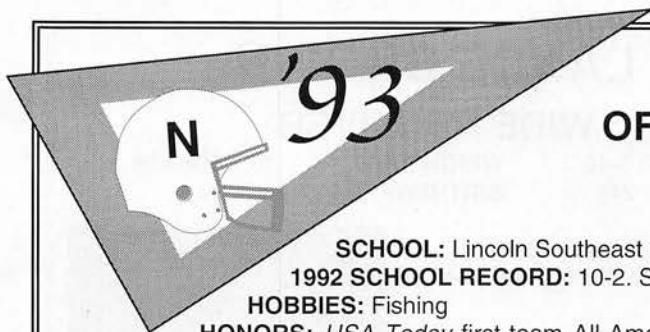
RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "A tremendous athlete that can play a lot of places for us. Eric would like to go both ways for us, but we will start him on the offensive side of the ball at wingback and if that doesn't go then we would move him to defensive back. Just a tremendous athlete that we are looking for big things from this coming year."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I really liked the atmosphere up there in Lincoln. It just seemed like the place for me. It's a laid back place and I figure I can't get in trouble up there. I can see myself becoming very productive at Nebraska."

CAPSULE: One of only two junior college recruits to commit to Nebraska this year. Alford is a versatile athlete who played split end, tight end, running back and defensive back during his career. In 1992 Alford caught 27 passes for 476 yards and seven touchdowns while also carrying the ball 46 times for 329 yards and four touchdowns. He also averaged 12 yards per punt return and 27 yards per kickoff return. Has two years of eligibility remaining.

SON of MARY ALFORD





ERIC ANDERSON

OFFENSIVE/ DEFENSIVE TACKLE

HEIGHT: 6-4

WEIGHT: 290

SPEED: 5.0

BENCH: 360

BIRTHDAY: July 16, 1975

SCHOOL: Lincoln Southeast (Nebraska); 3 year starter
1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 10-2. State champions in Class A.

HOBBIES: Fishing

HONORS: USA Today first-team All-American, All-State (2 years), Super State selection, Nebraska Defensive Player of the Year

OTHER SPORTS: Track (3 letters, throws shot and discus)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska

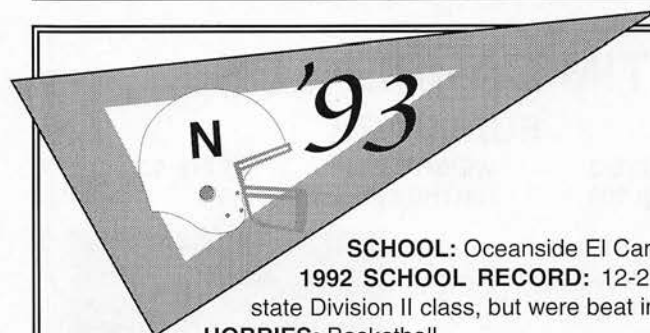
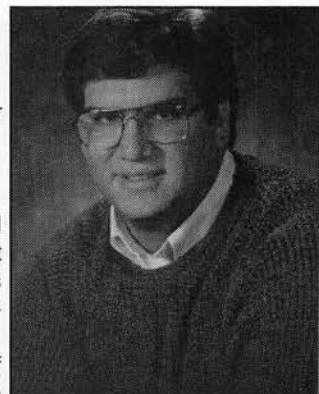
HIGH SCHOOL COACH CHUCK MIZERSKI: "First of all he has tremendous size and quickness. Everything you normally say about great players applies to Eric. I haven't seen many kids his size that possess the agility he has. He doesn't get knocked off his feet too easily. In my 24 years of coaching he is the best I've ever seen and I've had players like Craig Sundberg and Billy Weber here."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "A great player. We feel that Eric is one of the best in the country and obviously from the honors he has received, others feel the same way. He will start on the defensive side of the ball, but has the ability to play both sides. Certainly strength is one of his main assets, but his great agility, good quickness and tremendous intensity will help push him to the next level. He has all the qualities of a great football player and should be a good one."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I've lived here all my life and have been a die-hard Husker fan. I never really considered going anywhere else because Nebraska will continue to stay on top. Going there will help me become the best I can be. I'll probably redshirt next year, but that doesn't bother me."

CAPSULE: While at Souteast, Anderson helped lead the team to a 25-8 record during the last three years and two-consecutive state championships. Defensively he led the team in tackles with 115 last year. As a shot putter he placed in the top six at state. Besides making an impact on the field, Anderson has also made great strides in the classroom and boasts a 3.33 GPA and a 24 ACT score.

SON of SANDRA and IVAN ANDERSON



MIKE BOOKER

CORNERBACK

HEIGHT: 6-2

WEIGHT: 200

SPEED: 4.43

BENCH: 225

BIRTHDAY: April 27, 1975

SCHOOL: Oceanside El Camino (Calif.); 2 year starter
1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 12-2. Finished ranked seventh in the state Division II class, but were beat in the finals.

HOBBIES: Basketball

HONORS: All-League selection (2 times), First-team All-City, second-team All-California, Alvacado co-Defensive Player of the Year

OTHER SPORTS: Basketball (3 letters), captained a team which was ranked No. 1 in the country during 1992-93.

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Weaver State

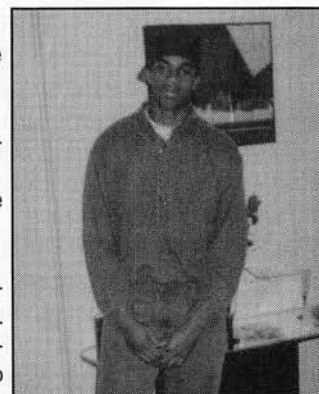
HIGH SCHOOL COACH HERB MEYER: "Mike got off to a late start and didn't play football until his sophomore year. So from that standpoint he is a little inexperienced. Obviously the thing that stands out first is his tremendous athletic ability. He has exceptional size for a corner and can dominate in bump-and-run situations. He's only going to get better."

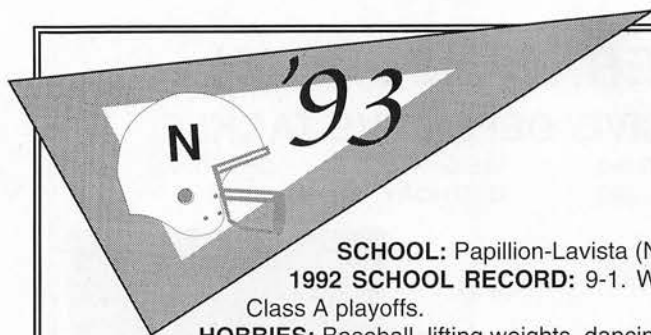
RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Mike will probably come and start at corner with the thought that we could always move him to safety. He has great size, excellent speed and covers very well for a big defensive back. He should add a lot to our secondary."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I was real interested in Nebraska because they have a good record of defensive players making it into the NFL. Looking at my options and down the road, I felt this was my best chance to go pro some day."

CAPSULE: Booker recorded 77 tackles (21 solo) last year while also having five of those result in losses. He had three interceptions, two forced fumbles and blocked one punt during his senior season. Booker finished second on the team on the defensive point chart. In limited action as a tailback, Booker rushed 19 times for 113 yards with two touchdowns and caught one pass for a 12-yard touchdown out of a Multiple setup.

Son of FOSTORIA and MICHAEL BOOKER





LANCE BROWN

WIDE RECEIVER

HEIGHT: 5-10
BENCH: 245

WEIGHT: 165
SPEED: 4.66
BIRTHDAY: March 24, 1975

SCHOOL: Papillion-Lavista (Nebraska); 2 year starter.

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 9-1. Were beat in the first round of the Class A playoffs.

HOBBIES: Baseball, lifting weights, dancing

HONORS: All State, first-team All-Nebraska, Super-State.

OTHER SPORTS: Baseball (2 letters)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Kansas State, Iowa State, Wyoming

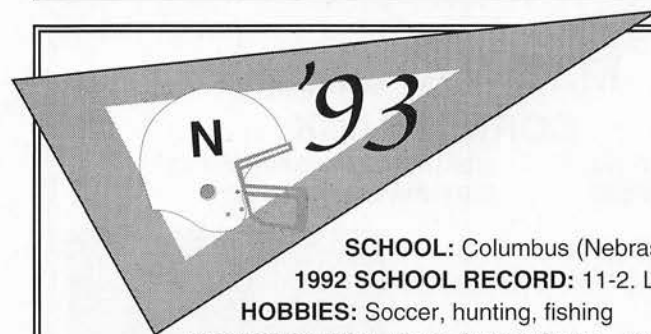
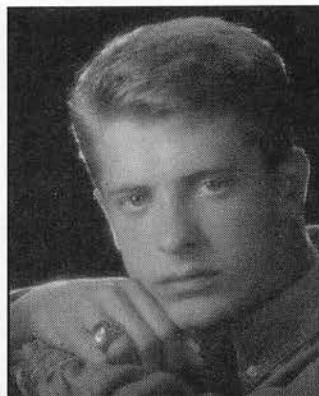
HIGH SCHOOL COACH GENE SUHR: "He's got great speed and hands. He also has the ability to make people miss. I really like the way he will go over the middle and fearlessly make a play for the ball. He has legitimate speed and can fit into Nebraska's system. I'm sure he would like to see them put the ball in the air a little more, but he should be asked to do the same things Jon Bostick did."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Lance will be a split end for us and we saw a lot of positive things from him at our summer camp. He has great hands, good speed and will be a good receiver for us."

WHY NEBRASKA: "It all came down to tradition and the ability for all the people at home to see me play. I got along real well with Coach Ron Brown and that helped in the decision process. I liked the facilities and the atmosphere they have in Lincoln. Nebraska wants to throw more since they have Tommie Frazier, so I might get a chance to play quicker."

CAPSULE: As a split end in Papillion's Multiple scheme, Brown caught 44 passes for 922 yards (20.95 average per catch) and seven touchdowns as a senior. He also returned 15 punts for 344 yards and one score. On kickoff returns, he racked up 287 yards on nine returns for a 33.8 average. Brown also doubled as a kicker who connected on 35 extra points, one field goal and averaged 34 yards per punt. On the defensive side of the ball, he started at corner in 1992 and had 42 tackles (28 solo) and five interceptions for 126 yards.

SON of VALERIE and BRANDT BROWN.



TIM CARPENTER

FULLBACK

HEIGHT: 6-3
BENCH: 300

WEIGHT: 230
SPEED: 4.7
BIRTHDAY: Nov. 27, 1974

SCHOOL: Columbus (Nebraska); 3 year starter.

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 11-2. Lost in the semi-finals of Class A.

HOBBIES: Soccer, hunting, fishing

HONORS: First-team Super-State, All-Nebraska Running Back, All-Conference, *Lincoln Journal Star* Class A Offensive Player of the Year.

OTHER SPORTS: Soccer (2 letters).

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska

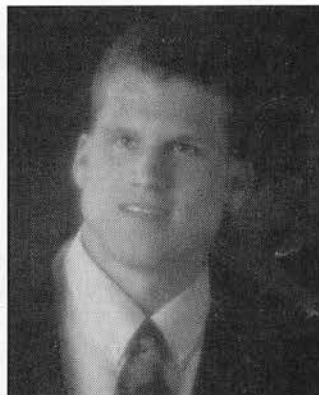
HIGH SCHOOL COACH DICK LUEBBE: "With his great size and potential, his future is definitely ahead of him. I think he's going to be a great player. Of course there are a lot of variables that could change that, but I don't necessarily see that happening. He's bigger than Cory Schlesinger (current NU fullback from Columbus) and has a chance to be as good. He will do well for Nebraska."

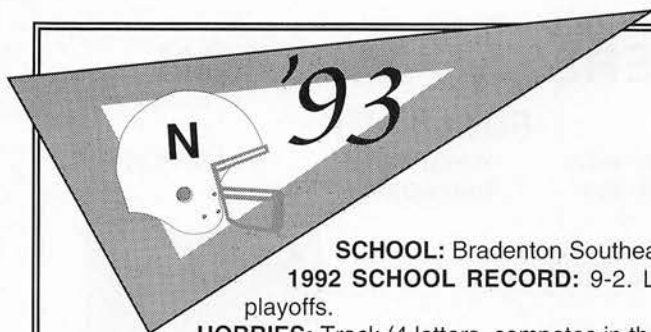
RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Tim is a player with great size and athletic ability who should be a great blocking fullback in our system. But he also has enough athletic ability and speed to make some plays as a runner."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I chose Nebraska because I always wanted to be a Husker. I would like to take up the role that players like Tom Rathman and Lance Lewis have had at Nebraska, but I understand that it will be a lot of hard work. I don't envision myself rushing a lot, but I don't mind blocking and working hard as long as we win."

CAPSULE: Carpenter rushed for 1,224 yards and 12 touchdowns in 11 games last year. His best outing was a 220 yard effort against North Platte as a senior. Defensively, he led the Discoverers in tackles as an outside linebacker. In last year's playoffs, Carpenter rushed for 140 yards and had 12 tackles against Papillion-LaVista.

SON of LANELL and TED CARPENTER





LESLIE DENNIS

CORNERBACK

HEIGHT: 5-10
BENCH: 265

WEIGHT: 165
BIRTHDAY: March 21, 1975

SCHOOL: Bradenton Southeast (Florida); 2 year starter.
1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 9-2. Lost in the first round of the 4 A playoffs.

HOBBIES: Track (4 letters, competes in the 100, 200 and 4x1 relay).

HONORS: All Region (twice), All State, first-team All-Florida

OTHER SPORTS: Baseball (2 letters)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Ole Miss, Georgia Tech

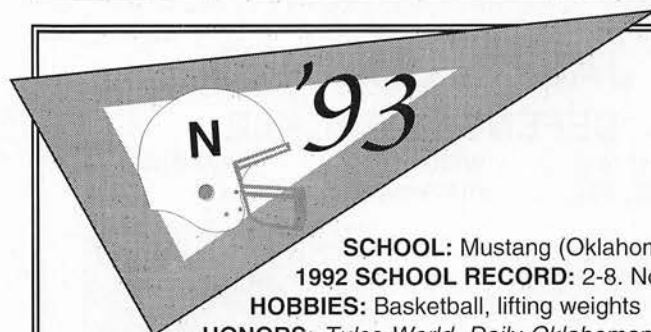
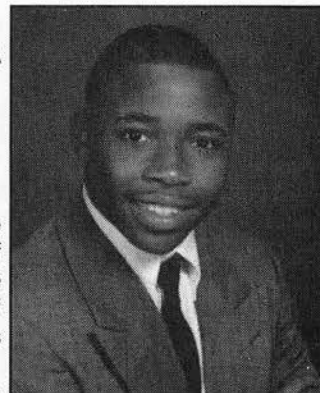
HIGH SCHOOL COACH PAUL MAECHTLE: "The No.1 factor Leslie will be a big time player is his speed and academic progress in the classroom. You don't find that kind of combination very often. As a student he is rather quiet and shy, but a good kid. He's one who leads by example. He also has good quickness of feet and has a great burst of speed after he gets going. He's got a good chance of running anyone down, but if he has the ball there's not many who will hold him."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "He'll play cornerback for us. Leslie has great speed as he is a track man who is also an excellent cover guy. When he gets here he's going to develop physicality and become a great player."

WHY NEBRASKA: "Nebraska is a great school, so the decision wasn't tough. I was kind of looking at (Georgia) Tech, but it was getting down to crunch time and I didn't want to get left behind. I really enjoyed the way I was recruited."

CAPSULE: Dennis is from the same hometown as NU quarterback Tommie Frazier and defensive back Tyrone Williams (1992 proposition 48). In 1992 Dennis recorded 38 tackles, two interceptions, five breakups and one fumble recovery. Because of injuries, Dennis also split time as a running back during the last six games of the season and rushed for 454 yards and five touchdowns. Speed is Dennis' trademark and he has used it to better Florida State's freshman Tamarick Vanover during their high school meetings. He defeated Vanover in the 200-meter dash and also bettered him in the 100-meter prelims with a 10.4 clocking. Dennis also posts over a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

SON of ROSA and EUGENE DENNIS



JOSH HESKEW

TIGHT END/ NOSEGUARD

HEIGHT: 6-3
BENCH: 330

WEIGHT: 245
BIRTHDAY: Sept. 2, 1975

SCHOOL: Mustang (Oklahoma); 3 year starter
1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 2-8. No playoff action in 6A.

HOBBIES: Basketball, lifting weights

HONORS: *Tulsa World*, *Daily Oklahoman* and Coaches All-State selection, *Blue Chip* All-American, Dennis Byrd Award recipient.

OTHER SPORTS: Wrestling (1 letter)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Southwest Missouri State, Oklahoma State, New Mexico

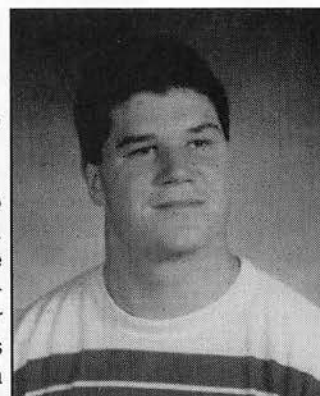
HIGH SCHOOL COACH CHARLES CARPENTER: "You don't block him one on one. The kid has great heart. I think Nebraska stepped into Oklahoma and got a steal. The only one from this state that I could compare him to would be Tony Casillas (an All-American nose guard at the University of Oklahoma). At this stage in the game he's better than Dennis Byrd (defensive lineman with the New York Jets) was at this point in his career and look what he went on to do. He's got the heart to be dominating. Oklahoma will regret not taking him."

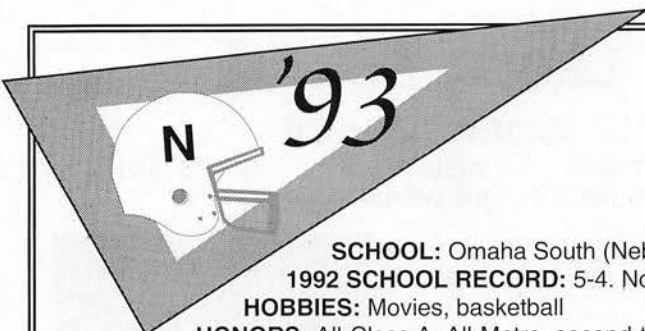
RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Josh could start out on either side of the ball. He could work as a tight end or defensive lineman in our system. He has great work ethic and was a dominating player in high school. His work habits alone will make Josh an excellent player for us."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I liked the program and it has such a huge tradition. Being from Oklahoma most people expected me to go to OU, but I have a bad taste in my mouth when it comes to those guys. I think anytime you get a chance to learn from a legend like Tom Osborne, you have to go for it."

CAPSULE: Heskew becomes the sixth Oklahoman to accept a Husker scholarship (fourth in two years). As a tight end he caught 19 passes for two touchdowns, but got the most attention on defense where he averaged two quarterback sacks per game and had as many as five. He tallied 150 tackles (58 solo) during his senior year, a feat not even Byrd could accomplish. Was not recruited by Oklahoma.

SON of VICKIE and MARK HESKEW





VERSHAN JACKSON

FULLBACK

HEIGHT: 6-1
BENCH: 280

WEIGHT: 215
BIRTHDAY: Feb. 27, 1975



SCHOOL: Omaha South (Nebraska); 3 year starter.

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 5-4. No playoff action in Class A.

HOBBIES: Movies, basketball

HONORS: All-Class A, All-Metro, second-team All-State

OTHER SPORTS: Basketball (2 letters), Track (4 letters, 100, 200, 4x1 relay).

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Kansas State

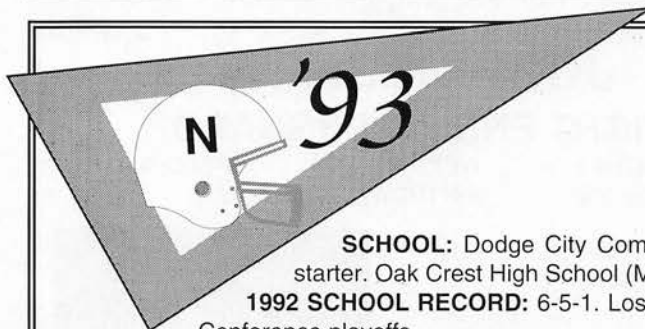
HIGH SCHOOL COACH JACK OHOLENDT: "He has got a lot of room to improve as a running back. He has good size for the college level and real good speed to boot. He also can catch the ball real well and run tight patterns. He's a little different back than Nebraska usually recruits because he is more of a pounder than say Calvin Jones (current Nebraska I-back)."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Vershan will start on the offensive side of the ball for us at fullback. He is a big, strong back with a lot of power. He has the body type and athletic skills to also play linebacker on defense. So, we have several options as to where to play him and he certainly has the talent to be a good player for us."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I have always wanted to go to Nebraska so it just seemed natural for me to accept them. There is always good competition for the running backs and that will make me a better back. I guess there's always a chance that I would get switched to defense, but that could happen anywhere. I like to play defense, but offense is where I really play better."

CAPSULE: As a senior, Jackson rushed for at least 100 yards in every game including a 295 yard effort against Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson. He tallied 1,278 yards in eight games last season and had the second-best average per game in the Omaha metro area with 159.8 yards a game. Midway through last season, Jackson also began playing outside linebacker where he recorded 22 tackles and returned one interception 16 yards for a touchdown. Jackson was a three-year starter on defense playing inside linebacker before the switch.

SON of JACQUELYN JACKSON

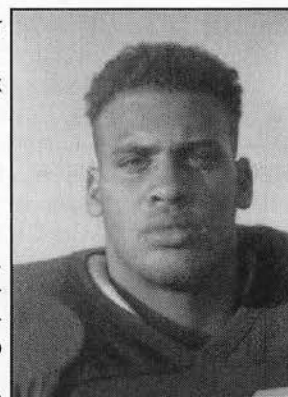


JASON JENKINS

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

HEIGHT: 6-4
BENCH: 405

WEIGHT: 255
BIRTHDAY: July 26, 1973



SCHOOL: Dodge City Community College (Kansas); 2 year starter. Oak Crest High School (Mays Landing, N.J.)

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 6-5-1. Lost in the first round of the Jayhawk Conference playoffs.

HOBBIES: Basketball, lifting weights

HONORS: First-team All-Jayhawk Conference (twice), Preseason All-American

OTHER SPORTS: Wrestling (In high school finished second in state with 32-1 record).

OFFICIAL VISITS: NU, Temple, West Virginia, Kansas State, UTEP

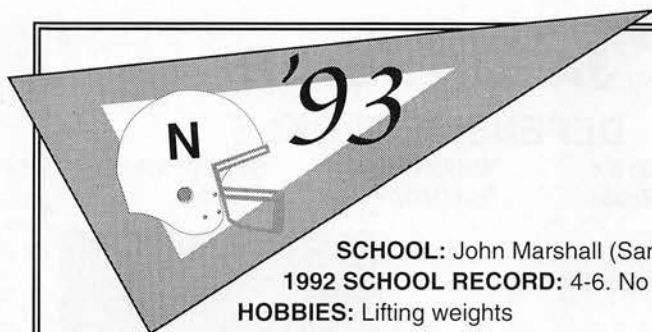
JUCO COACH STEVE SIMPSON: "Jason has a tremendous amount of athletic ability. He's still real young, but he's real big and fast. He's only 19-years-old, but has a 25-year-old man's body. As he learns the system and matures, he could become a dynamic player. He's been a real good kid and I think his best ball is still ahead of him. We are also extremely proud of the way Jason performed academically."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Jason is already on our campus and will play defensive tackle for us. He has the good mobility and speed that you look for in a defensive tackle and should be an excellent player for us."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I've always liked Nebraska since I was little. It was close between Nebraska and West Virginia, but one morning I just woke up and decided Nebraska was the place for me. The only thing that really made me think twice was how far away it was from home. But going to a junior college helped take some of that pressure off."

CAPSULE: Because he is on campus, Jenkins will be able to take part in winter conditioning and spring football. In 1992 he led his JUCO team with 58 tackles (21 solo), three quarterback sacks, eight tackles for loss and caused two fumbles. He graduated with an associate of arts degree in three semesters with nearly a 3.0 GPA. Was so excited to be heading to Nebraska that he left Dodge City without his wallet, which was found behind bleachers in the gym.

SON of SANDRA and PAUL JENKINS



SEAN NOSTER

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

HEIGHT: 6-3
BENCH: 260

WEIGHT: 215
SPEED: 4.45
BIRTHDAY: Dec. 31, 1974

SCHOOL: John Marshall (San Antonio, Texas); 3 year starter.
1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 4-6. No playoff action in class 5A.

HOBBIES: Lifting weights

HONORS: Texas Top 100, All-District (twice), honorable mention All-State

OTHER SPORTS: Track (3 letters)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Oklahoma, Baylor

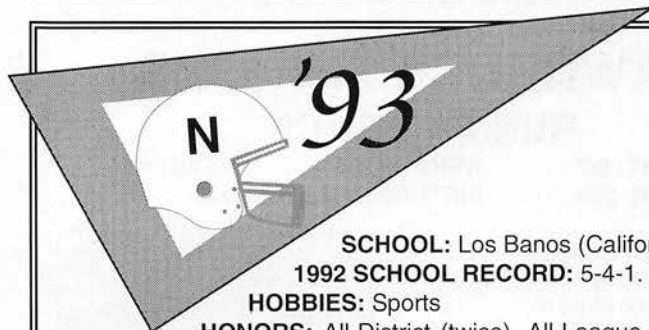
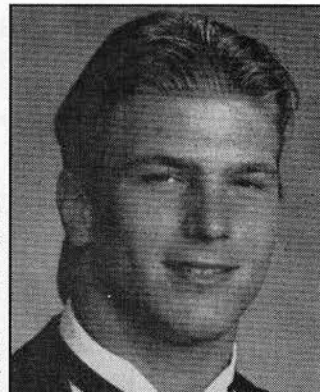
HIGH SCHOOL COACH DAVID VISENTINE: "Sean is a fine student and an exceptional athlete. His greatest asset is his speed. We felt very comfortable running our defense with Sean in there because we could match him up with their best runners and receivers. He's also a great pass rusher. He will fit in perfectly with Nebraska's defensive system."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Sean will be an outside linebacker for us. He has good size and speed and seems perfect for that spot. Sean's a pretty good track man and an excellent athlete who should fit in well with our tradition of excellent outside linebackers."

WHY NEBRASKA: "Nebraska seemed like the place for me to better my abilities. I have some personal goals that I want to accomplish and I think I can do it there. I really liked their academic supports system as well as the facilities, coaches and just about everything else you can think about."

CAPSULE: As a senior, Noster recorded 93 tackles (56 solo) in eight games while also intercepting two passes, forcing two fumbles and four breakups. Noster also doubled as the punter with a 40.2 average. As a sprinter on the track team, Noster was a regional qualifier in the 200, 400 and was a member of the sprint-relay team. A good student, Noster posts a 3.31 GPA. Noster had originally committed to Baylor, but turned the Bears down after deciding it wouldn't be so hard to play far away from home.

SON of TRINA and WAYNE NOSTER



RODNEY PERCOATS

RUNNING BACK/ TIGHT END

HEIGHT: 6-4
BENCH: 275

WEIGHT: 250
SPEED: 4.7
BIRTHDAY: July 11, 1975

SCHOOL: Los Banos (California); 3 year starter.

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 5-4-1. No playoff action in Division 2.

HOBBIES: Sports

HONORS: All-District (twice), All-League (three times), Super Sophomore, League MVP, District Player of the Year, Modesto Bee Player of the Year, All-Northern California, All-State Underclassman, All-Regional, All-West, Blue Chip.

OTHER SPORTS: Basketball (3 letters at power forward), Baseball (4 letters in the out-field)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, California, Washington, Arizona, San Diego State

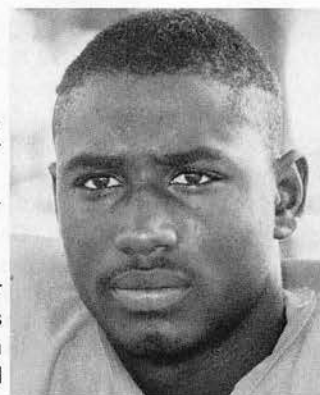
HIGH SCHOOL COACH DON TOSCANO: "He gained over 400 yards for us and as far as athletic ability he is established. Here's a kid who never had been any trouble and has been a model student. He didn't kill himself in the classroom, but I'd be proud to have him as a son. He's not a big time running back, but is a super tight end. Get him going and he's a load to bring down."

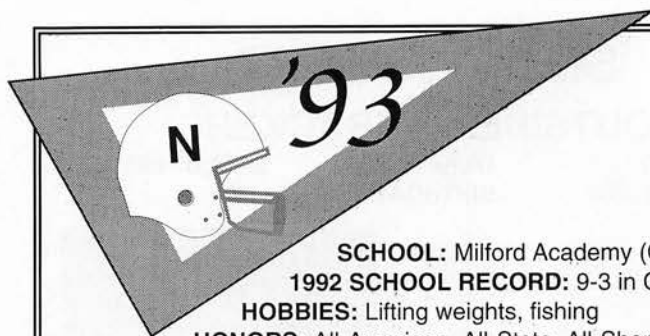
RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Rodney was a running back in high school and has great size. We really like him as a tight end. That will be a little bit of a change for him, but I have no doubt he will adapt because of his athletic ability."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I looked at a lot of big time colleges, but Nebraska just seemed to be better. The coaches really seem to care about you and want you to work toward a degree. I might end up being a Prop 48, but I know that with the help I'll receive there that I will be able to do well both on the field and in the classroom."

CAPSULE: Percoats rushed for 4,077 yards in his three-year career as a starter and averaged 8.5 yards per carry. He also tallied 4,776 all-purpose yards and scored 67 touchdowns. In 1992 he rushed for 1,345 yards and 15 scores, but had his best year as a junior when he rushed for 1,620 yards and 27 touchdowns.

SON of ROZLEYEN BOND and GRANDSON of IDA L. BONN





JASON PETER DEFENSIVE TACKLE

HEIGHT: 6-6
BENCH: 380

WEIGHT: 290
BIRTHDAY: Sept. 13, 1974

SCHOOL: Milford Academy (Conn.); 1 year starter.

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 9-3 in College JV Division.

HOBBIES: Lifting weights, fishing

HONORS: All-American, All-State, All-Shore, All-County

OTHER SPORTS: None

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Syracuse, Miami, Washington, Georgia Tech

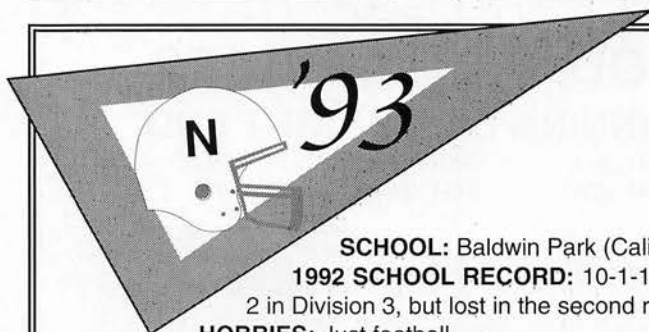
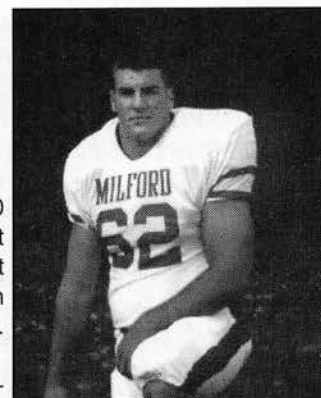
ACADEMY COACH JEFF BEVINO: "According to *Super Prep* Jason is one of the top 10 defensive linemen in the country. To tell you the truth, I can't see 10 better. I haven't coached anyone like him. He's big, fast, strong, nasty and hungry. He also has a great work ethic. He's quite a specimen to see. Of the 23 NCAA Division I recruits I had, Jason was the best. He comes off the ball real low and hard and has just got incredible strength. On top of everything, he's also a great kid."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Jason was probably the most highly recruited player we went after this year. Of course his brother Christian is here and we will start Jason out on the defensive side of the ball. He has great size and strength and very good athletic ability."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I wanted to play for Nebraska and felt very comfortable when I was up there. The staff is great and seem to be really interested in you as a person and a player. I'm looking to step right in, but I could also redshirt."

CAPSULE: Peter decided to join his brother, a redshirt sophomore defensive tackle. Peter played on both sides of the ball and was one of the most sought-after linemen in 1993 according to recruiting analysts. Last year he recorded 105 tackles (65 solo), had eight sacks, five pass breakups and returned one blocked punt for a touchdown. Milford Academy is a prep school made up of students ranging in age from 18 to 20. However, under NCAA guidelines Peter is still considered a senior and will have four years of eligibility left. Milford won a school-record nine games in 1992 while playing Division I college junior-varsity squads such as Army and Navy.

SON of MARY and HUBERT PETER



LAWRENCE PHILLIPS RUNNING BACK

HEIGHT: 6-2
BENCH: 280

WEIGHT: 200
BIRTHDAY: May 12, 1975

SCHOOL: Baldwin Park (California); 2 year starter.

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 10-1-1. Finished the season ranked No. 2 in Division 3, but lost in the second round of the playoffs.

HOBBIES: Just football

HONORS: All-Valley, All-State, All-American, No. 1 Back in the West, All-Valley, All-San Gabriel Valley

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Arizona State, USC, Illinois, Washington State

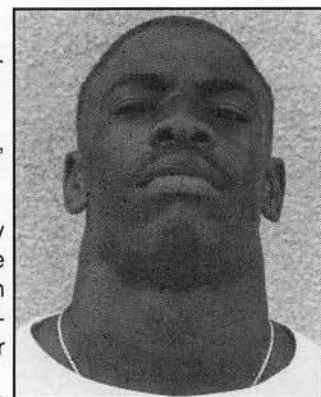
HIGH SCHOOL COACH TONY ZANE: "He's just a big, strong, fast back who is very aggressive. We lost our quarterback early in the season and so the brunt of the offense fell on him. He's a combination of power and quickness. I would compare him to a Calvin Jones kind of runner. I think he is perfect for Nebraska. All five of the schools he considered, seemed to be his style of offense, but he probably couldn't have made a better choice."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Lawrence is the pro-type I-back with great instinctive running ability, good size and good speed. He has all the tools to be a very good back for us."

WHY NEBRASKA: "When I visited there everything just seemed to fall in place. I got along real well with the players and felt like I could easily fit in real well. The way Nebraska recruits the best offensive linemen in the country tells me they are still dedicated to a power running attack and I like that a lot. The running scheme they have in place will fit me well."

CAPSULE: Phillips gained 1,752 yards rushing as a senior and was rated as the ninth-best high school player in the West by national recruiting analyst Tom Lemming. He also had 250 yards receiving and scored 25 touchdowns. In his two-year career, he rushed for nearly 3,000 yards and scored 38 touchdowns.

SON of BARBARA THOMAS



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best, he stays there. Everything being equal, you're going to lean to experience," Osborne said.

Despite Frazier's starting experience, the Cornhusker quarterbacks are young, extremely so. None will be "older" than sophomores in eligibility. Tony Veland, a redshirted freshman last fall, will begin the spring second on the depth chart.

Veland was No. 2, behind Mike Grant, at the end of practice last spring but was sidelined by a shoulder injury before the beginning of the season and played in only four games.

Brook Berringer, who will be a red-shirted sophomore, and Ben Rutz, who redshirted as a freshman last fall, will follow Veland on the depth chart, "in either order," said Osborne.

Berringer, like Veland, played only sparingly last fall, appearing in five games and attempting only two passes, both incomplete. Berringer has been bothered by a sore elbow, and "right now, we're just hoping he'll be able to go," Osborne said.

Frazier is one of 17 players with

UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS

Led by a returning quarterback with starting experience, Coach Tom Osborne is finding that this spring could provide less headaches than in the past

by MIKE BABCOCK

Tom Osborne will face what has become a rare, but pleasant, situation when this spring's practice begins — a quarterback with starting experience in freshman Tommie Frazier.

That's a luxury Osborne has had only once since Steve Taylor's final spring in 1988. Mickey Joseph was a returning starter prior to his senior season, in the spring of 1991.

The other three springs during that stretch, the Cornhuskers have been forced to start from scratch in putting together their offense because quarterback is where it begins.

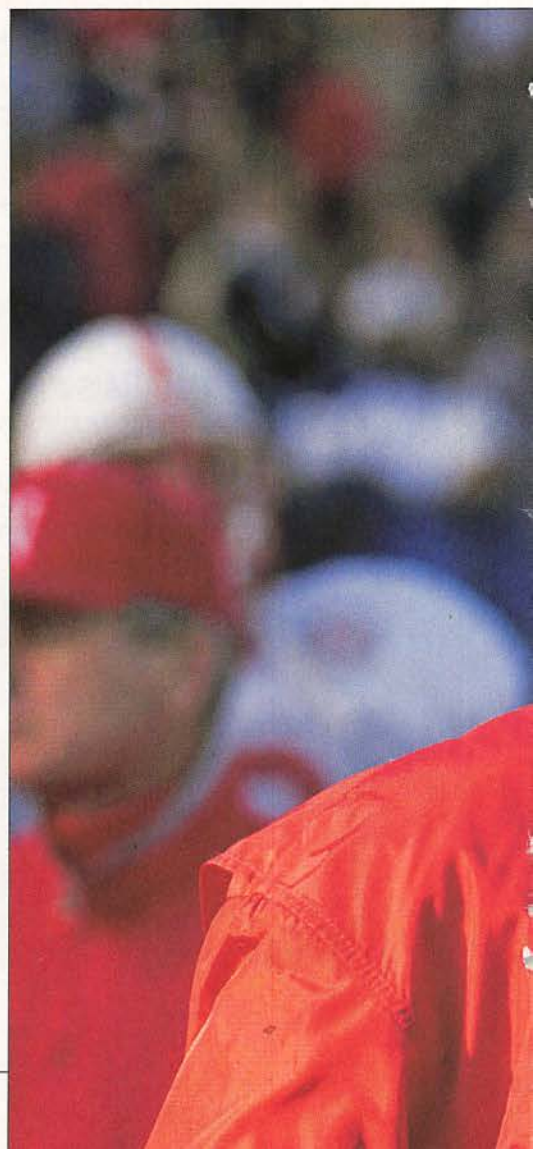
And Frazier, the first true freshman to play quarterback since Taylor and the first to start for Nebraska in modern history, certainly is a good player with whom to start. He was the Big

Eight's Offensive Newcomer of the Year, according to both the Associated Press and the coaches, and received all-conference honorable mention from the AP.

That doesn't mean the No. 1 job belongs to Frazier regardless of what happens in the spring, however. It just means he'll start at the top of the depth chart. "Nobody's got anything locked up," Osborne said.

"Whether a guy's a one-year starter or a three-year starter, he'll still have his snaps in the scrimmages. We'll try to get them all the same number of snaps."

That competition, which is a basis of Nebraska's remarkable success over the years, will determine who is to begin fall camp with the No. 1 job. "If the guy (returning starter) plays



starting experience available this spring, according to Osborne. That's unusual. "It's a little better than average," he said. "This is a more experienced team than normal."

"I don't know how people count returning starters, but we've got a lot of front-line players in most spots. So fortunately, our focus will be on developing some depth."

By Osborne's definition, tight end Gerald Armstrong is a returning starter, even though he really started only two of the 10 regular-season games in which he played. Armstrong, who had seven touchdowns on his eight pass receptions, "probably played more minutes than William Washington, so he was like a starter," Osborne said.

But Washington, of course, was the primary starter at tight end.

In addition to Armstrong, the Cornhuskers have two other receivers with starting experience in split end Corey Dixon (four starts) and wingback Abdul Muhammad (three starts). Dixon was tied for second on the team

in pass receiving, with 13 catches for 279 yards and three touchdowns.

Three starters return in the interior of the offensive line: tackles Zach Wiegert and Lance Lundberg and guard Ken Mehlin. All three started every game. But tackle Rob Zatechka alternated with Lundberg and was like a starter, according to Osborne.

Zatechka and Mehlin may end up at different positions in the spring, Osborne said. Mehlin, a 6-0, 265-pound senior-to-be, will be tried at center, with Zatechka possibly filling his vacated guard's position.

The experiment with Mehlin is being considered because the top two centers last season, Jim Scott and Terris Chorney, are gone.

Another offensive experiment this spring will be a shift of Trumane Bell from split end to tight end. Bell, who's 6-foot-3 and 210 pounds, was tied for the team lead in pass receiving last fall, with 14 receptions for 124 yards and one touchdown.

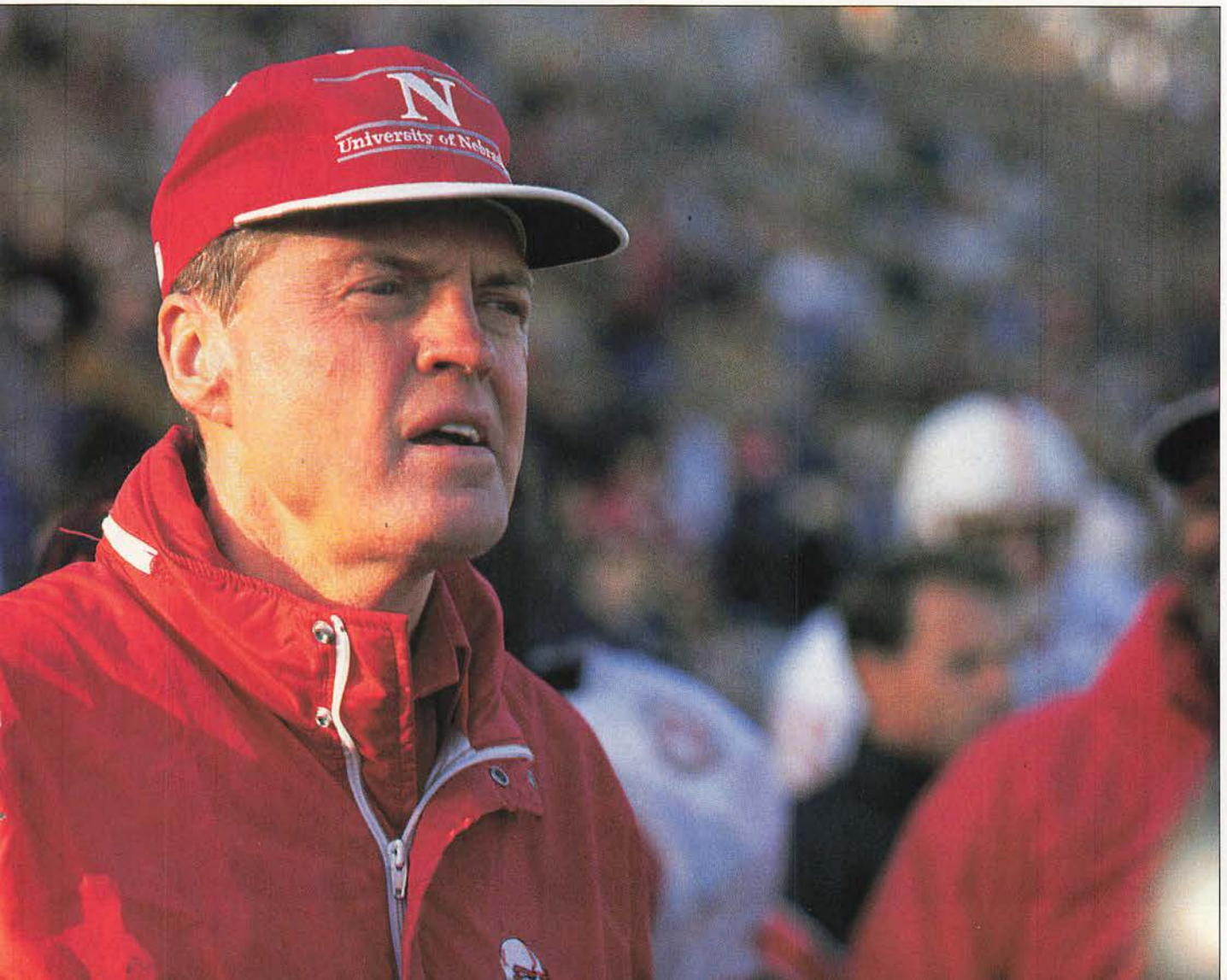
Frazier will be joined in the backfield by Calvin Jones, a returning

starter at I-back and the Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year, according to conference coaches. Jones led the conference as well as the team in rushing with 1,210 yards and 14 touchdowns, and he was tied with Bell for the team lead in pass receptions.

With Derek Brown gone, however, finding depth behind Jones will be a priority in the spring. Joining reserve Jeff Makovicka in the competition will be redshirted freshmen Damon Benning, Marvin Sims and Willis Brown, a scholarship recruit from Edmond, Okla., who had been projected as a wingback.

Brown was an all-state running back in high school, rushing for 1,143 yards despite being hampered by a hamstring pull as a senior.

The feet of I-Back sensation Calvin Jones (44, top) has Osborne eyeing another rushing title, but it is the arm of sophomore quarterback Tommie Frazier that has Osborne looking further down the road.



Starting fullback Lance Lewis completed his eligibility, but Cory Schlesinger, his back-up, "played a lot," Osborne said. "Cory's good, but we really need someone behind him."

Defensively, the Cornhuskers have at least eight players Osborne considers returning starters, beginning with outside linebacker Trev Alberts, first-team All-Big Eight according to the conference coaches.

Although he didn't start any of the 11 games in which he played last season, outside linebacker Donta Jones "was like a starter," Osborne said.

Noseguard David Noonan and tackle Bruce Moore were starters in the fall, as were inside linebackers Mike Anderson and Ed Stewart.

Finding a replacement for all-conference tackle John Parrella will be a definite focus in the spring, according to Osborne. Among the candidates are Billy Wade, Parrella's back-up for the Orange Bowl game loss against Florida State, as well as Kevin Raemakers and Jason Pesterfield, both of whom were back-ups to Moore.

Cornerback John Reece is the only full-time starter returning in the sec-

ondary, though Troy Dumas did start two games at free safety and strong safety Toby Wright was a lot like a starter, according to Osborne.

"The secondary, in general, we'll look at pretty hard," Osborne said of his concerns this spring. "The cornerback opposite Reece will be something of a focus, and the safeties will be a matter of focus."

Among the scholarship freshmen redshirted in the fall who will compete in the secondary this spring are Eric

All-Big Eight outside linebacker Trev Alberts (34) heads a list of at least eight returners Osborne considers key in the development of another sound Black Shirt unit.



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Stokes, a cornerback, and Mike Minter, projected as a free safety.

Come fall, Tyrone Williams also could figure in the picture in the secondary. Williams, a walk-on from Bradenton, Fla., where he was a high school teammate of Frazier, failed to meet freshman eligibility requirements under the NCAA's Proposition 42.

As a result, Williams couldn't play or practice last fall, and he isn't eligible for spring practice. The same is true of scholarship recruits Larry Arnold, an outside linebacker, and Clinton Childs, an I-back.

If their grades are good enough to meet eligibility requirements, that is. "We didn't lose anybody because of Prop 42 first semester," said Osborne. "Nobody eliminated themselves. But they've still got another semester."

The Cornhuskers should be healthy

for spring practice. Sedric Collins, a free safety, will be sidelined because of a knee surgery, and Berringer's status is in doubt. Otherwise, it appears, everyone will be able to practice, Osborne said.

"We really didn't have a whole lot of (off-season) surgery."

That's a reason for optimism beyond the spring, of course, as is the presence of Frazier. Cornhusker fans seem to share his relief.

At halftime of a Nebraska basketball game soon after the loss against Florida State in the Orange Bowl, the Cornhuskers who earned post-season honors were introduced. All were greeted with enthusiastic applause. But Frazier got a standing ovation.

It's pretty obvious where the fans' focus is placed. ■



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National Exposure With Win Over Kansas Helps Solidify NU's Climb

It was only one game in the 1992-93 basketball season, a 68-64 victory against Kansas. But it will continue to have a significant, positive effect on Coach Danny Nee's program.

"Under the circumstances, we got the whole pie," Nee said.

Nebraska's third consecutive victory against Kansas in Lincoln was carried to several parts of the country by way of an ABC telecast. Because it was played on a Sunday and the college basketball schedule was typically light, the Cornhuskers' upset of the nation's third-ranked team held center stage nationally, even in sections of the country that didn't get the ABC telecast. It was prime time.

Not only that, Dick Vitale was ABC's color commentator. And his influence is considerable.

Vitale was a hit with the 14,679 fans who packed the Sports Center for the game. And he was generous in his praise of the Cornhuskers during the contest.

Such an upset would have been big under any circumstances. But the situation couldn't have been any better for Nebraska, which had struggled to that point in the season.



Photo by Dennis Hubbard

The Cornhuskers got maximum exposure. "I thought we were pretty lucky in that respect," Nee said.

Even sections of the country that got another game on ABC saw the late-game drama. ABC cut to the Nebraska-Kansas game for the final 28 seconds. "We win the game; they're No. 3 in the country you

Head Coach Danny Nee (above) got his team focused down the stretch and freshman Erick Strickland (opposite page, dunking) and the squad upset the then-No. 3 ranked Jayhawks in Lincoln for the second-straight year.

STATISTICS

NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS 1992-93 SEASON STATS

(Through 25 games) Record: 17-8 • Home: 11-2 • Away: 6-6 • Neutral: 1-2 • Big Eight: 5-5

PLAYER	G/GS	Min./Avg.	FG-FGA/Pct.	3FG-FGA/Pct.	FT-FTA/Pct.	Reb./Avg.	PF	Ass.	TO	Blks.	Stls.	Pts./Avg.
Piatkowski, Eric	24/ 24	685/ 28.5	137-289/ 47.4	34-97/ 35.1	76-102/ 74.5	142/ 5.9	49	54	56	8	27	384/ 16.0
Chandler, Derrick	25/ 23	586/ 23.4	112-221/ 50.7	0-0/ 0.0	50-80/ 62.5	189/ 7.6	61	23	57	36	14	274/ 11.0
Johnson, Jamar	25/ 25	693/ 27.7	87-207/ 42.0	19-74/ 25.7	41-58/ 70.7	79/ 3.2	62	88	64	6	45	234/ 9.4
Chubick, Bruce	25/ 25	608/ 24.3	70-139/ 50.4	3-12/ 25.0	63-92/ 68.5	149/ 6.0	58	28	44	14	17	206/ 8.2
Boone, Jaron	25/ 8	488/ 19.5	69-163/ 42.3	15-49/ 30.6	44-52/ 84.6	67/ 2.7	45	77	44	9	23	197/ 7.9
Strickland, Erick	25/ 6	437/ 17.5	68-151/ 45.0	25-65/ 38.5	35-48/ 72.9	57/ 2.3	67	51	48	3	32	196/ 7.8
Badgett, Terrance	25/ 11	383/ 15.3	70-140/ 50.0	9-25/ 36.0	28-44/ 63.6	101/ 4.0	66	25	31	10	13	177/ 7.1
Gregory, Amos	20/ 0	318/ 15.9	36-96/ 37.5	1-4/ 25.0	42-70/ 60.0	65/ 3.3	44	17	26	3	8	115/ 5.8
Woolridge, Andre	24/ 3	436/ 18.2	41-101/ 40.6	10-28/ 35.7	36-59/ 61.0	39/ 1.6	46	53	35	2	16	128/ 5.3
Best, Tom	22/ 0	370/ 16.8	48-110/ 43.6	7-20/ 35.0	9-17/ 52.9	100/ 4.5	65	30	26	6	17	112/ 5.1
Glenn, Jeremy	4/ 0	7/ 1.8	2-4/ 50.0		0-2/ 0.0	5/ 1.3	1		1			4/ 1.0
Robinson, Chuck	4/ 0	6/ 1.5	1-2/ 50.0				1		2			2/ .5

TEAM	G/GS	Min./Avg.	FG-FGA/Pct.	3FG-FGA/Pct.	FT-FTA/Pct.	Reb./Avg.	PF	Ass.	TO	Blks.	Stls.	Pts./Avg.
NEBRASKA	25	5025	741-1625/ 45.6	123-374/ 32.9	424-624/ 67.9	1062/ 42.5	565	446	437	97	212	2029/ 81.2
OPPONENT	25	5025	666-1559/ 42.7	119-408/ 29.2	424-681/ 62.3	962/ 38.5	505	11	398	431	200	1875/ 75.0

KEY: G/GS = Games/ Games Started • PF = Personal Fouls • Ass. = Assists • TO = Turnovers • Blks. = Blocks • Stls. = Steals

couldn't put a price tag or buy that," Nee said.

Prior to the game, Nee and his assistants encouraged all the players they were recruiting to watch on television if the game was available in their areas of the country.

The telecast, of course, was preserved on videotape for future recruits to watch. "I don't know if we're allowed to send it to kids," Nee said. "What we'll do with it is, basically, when kids come to campus on their official visits is show it to them. We'll make sure they know about the things he (Vitale) said.

"I think it will be beneficial to us. Maybe it'll get us (help to recruit) a player. It certainly won't hurt. That's for sure."

Just having a game televised on ABC, much less producing an upset of such magnitude, was a significant step

for Nee's developing program.

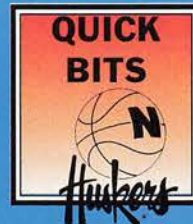
"To put it in perspective, three years ago, four years ago, Nebraska wouldn't even have dreamed of being in that position," he said. "I feel it was a major accomplishment."

The upset of Kansas in Lincoln was only the latest in a tradition of such successes, which can be traced as far back as 1900, when Nebraska and Kansas played for the first time.

That March 2 game, in Nebraska's fourth season and Kansas' second, was the first in basketball between current Big Eight schools. Kansas was coached by Dr. James Naismith, who invented the game.

Nebraska completed a 5-0 season under Coach T.P. Hewitt by defeating Kansas 48-8, a loss that still ranks as the worst in school history.

Nebraska's student yearbook See HOOPS pg 30



EXPOSED?: This year's upset of Kansas at the Sports Center will have a positive effect on recruiting because it was tele-

vised to several areas of the country. But "to say we recruit nationally is inaccurate," Nee said.

"I do think we recruit areas of the country to make it look national. But we don't recruit nationally like the football team. How many kids do you see from New York or Florida on our team? How many kids do you see from California?"

The Midwest is, of necessity, a recruiting priority for Nee.

As he regularly does for the coaches whose teams he covers in telecasts, Vitale spoke to the Cornhuskers on the day before the game against Kansas, at Nee's request.

"Vitale is genuinely nice," Nee said. He did, however, say "he didn't like my tie. I saw the tie he had on; there was no comparison. I'd compare ties with him any day of the week. My tie was gorgeous."

STRICKLY AMAZING: Erick Strickland scored 28 points to break Nebraska's single-game, freshman scoring record in the Cornhuskers' 88-87 overtime victory against Missouri on Jan. 30.

Strickland, who missed the previous day's practice because of a stomach virus and had three stitches above his right eye, hit 10-of-13 shots from the field, including 5-of-6 from 3-point range to break the record held by Jerry Fort. Though he was only 3-of-7 from the free throw line, the third of those free throws was point No. 88.

Afterward, Nee said Strickland showed "the courage to make the plays. You can't teach that. It's something that comes with character and confidence." Derrick Chandler, Nebraska's senior center, said of Strickland: "I think before he leaves this place, he is going to be one of the greatest here ever."

RECORD SETTER: Karen Jennings has been one of the greatest ever to play for the Nebraska women's team. The senior from Neola, Iowa, became the leading career scorer in Husker women's history during an 88-84 victory against Southwest Missouri State at the Sports Center.

The points that broke the record were two free throws with 16:22 remaining in the first half. Jennings finished with 35.

Maurtice Ivy held the record of 2,131 points in four seasons.

"I really had no doubt in my mind that she would be a great offensive player for us," Husker women's Coach Angela Beck said. ■





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HOOP GAMES

Nebraska 82, Colorado 67

Jan. 25, 1993 — Boulder, Colo.

The Cornhuskers put on their black road uniforms and produced their most lopsided Big Eight road victory during Coach Danny Nee's tenure as head coach, defeating Colorado 82-67.

The game was carried nationally on the ESPN cable network's "Big Monday" telecast. "This may not have been do-or-die for our season, but this was a do-or-die game for our NCAA hopes," the Cornhuskers' Bruce Chubick said. All the country was watching.

The victory was Nebraska's first in conference play after three consecutive losses, and it was the Cornhuskers' third without a loss in the black road uniforms. Nebraska won at Iowa State and then defeated Kansas in the Big Eight Tournament in 1991 while wearing the uniforms.

Eric Piatkowski and Terrance Badgett paced the Cornhuskers against Colorado, each scoring 15 points. Badgett, a redshirted freshman, got his 15 in only 16 minutes of action.

Colorado led 60-56 with 5:10 remaining in the game, but Nebraska outscored its hosts 26-7 down the stretch with the help of a box-and-one defense that contained the Buffaloes' high-scoring Donnie Boyce.

Nebraska 88, Missouri 87 (OT)

Jan. 30, 1993 — Lincoln, Ne.

Freshman Erick Strickland's free throw with 11.3 seconds remaining in overtime gave the Cornhuskers their second Big Eight victory in a row before an audience of 14,404 at the Devaney Sports Center.

Strickland put on an offensive show, scoring a game-high 28 points despite playing only 25 minutes.

Nebraska led 51-33 with 15:48 remaining in regulation, but Missouri outscored the Cornhuskers 29-7 in the next seven minutes to take the lead, at 62-58. The Tigers' Mark Atkins missed a 30-foot shot at the buzzer to send the game into overtime, then missed a desperation 3-pointer on the baseline at the buzzer in overtime.

The victory was only Nebraska's second in its last 12 games against Missouri. "I don't think I could've taken another loss at home to Missouri," said Cornhusker center Derrick Chandler, who scored 16 points and pulled down 12 rebounds.

"If we would've lost, I would have probably died," he said.

Missouri helped Nebraska by missing 19 of 38 free throws. The

AT A GLANCE

Cornhuskers weren't much better, however, hitting only 23 of 43.

Nebraska 80, Kansas State 59

Feb. 14, 1993 — Manhattan, Kan.

After an earlier 66-64 loss at home to Kansas State, the last thing the Huskers looked forward to was playing the league's most improved team on the road. But not only did the Huskers overcome the upstart obstacles, but scored the largest margin of victory in league play since a 27-point victory against Iowa State in 1933.

Nebraska, playing more of a team concept than in earlier games, shot 52 percent from the field, 26-for-50. It was NU's best effort against Big Eight competition this season. Led by center Derrick Chandler's nine, Nebraska also outrebounded the Wildcats 41-40 and controlled second-shot opportunities.

"It was as well as we've played in every aspect," Nee told the Lincoln Journal-Star. "It was probably our best win in a long time. There was not one player who didn't contribute."

SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

RECORD: 117-8
(As of Feb. 22)

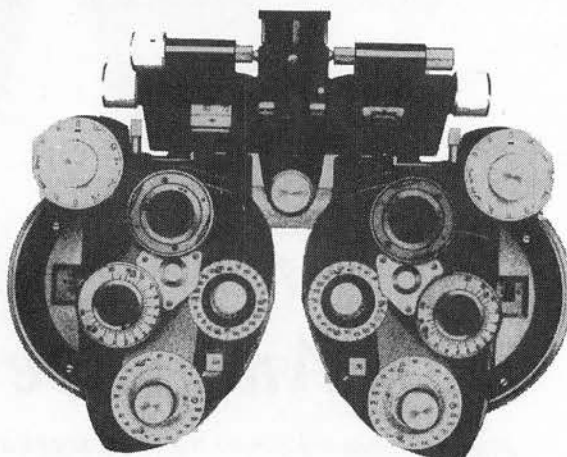
DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
Ameritas Classic — Lincoln, Neb.			
D 4	W	108-76	Colgate
D 5	W	85-61	Kent State
D 7	W	86-46	The Citadel
D 10	W	100-83	Creighton
D 12	W	71-64	@ Wichita St.
D 19	W	93-83	Appalachian St.
D 21	W	116-95	Texas-Arlington
D 23	L	74-64	@ USC
Rainbow Classic — Honolulu, Hawaii			
D 28	L	88-73	Michigan
D 29	L	109-80	S.W. Louisiana
D 30	W	79-55	Fordham
J 2	W	70-64	Eastern Illinois
J 5	W	100-85	Southern Utah
J 9	W	66-65	@ Missouri-K.C.
J 14	L	102-89	@ Oklahoma
J 16	L	78-73	@ OSU
J 20	W	86-70	Sacramento St.
J 23	L	66-64	Kansas State
J 25	W	82-67	@ Colorado
J 30	W	88-87	Missouri
F 3	L	96-69	@ Iowa State
F 7	W	68-64	Kansas
F 13	W	80-59	@ Kansas St.
F 15	L	73-63	Oklahoma
F 21	W	76-75	@ Missouri
F 24			Colorado
F 27			Iowa State
M 3			@ Kansas
M 7			Oklahoma
Big Eight Tourney — Lawrence, Kan.			
M 12			First Round
M 13			Semifinals
M 14			Championship



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HOOPS

From page 27

reported: "When Dr. Naismith, 'The Father of the Game,' brought his team here, a closely contested game was looked for. The 'Jayhawkers' were, however, completely outclassed, the score being 48-8."

The yearbook's account continued: "But when the Kansas men went to Omaha the next day and defeated the Omaha YMCA, which had an excellent team, the superiority of the varsity was clearly shown."

What was probably Nebraska's most memorable basketball victory against Kansas, however, came in the NU Coliseum on Feb. 22, 1958.

The Jayhawks of Coach Dick Harp were ranked fourth in the nation. They were led by 7-foot junior center Wilt Chamberlain, who was among the nation's leading scorers. When the teams had played two weeks earlier in Lawrence, Kan., Chamberlain had scored 46 points in a 102-46 Jayhawk victory.

The 46 points are still a record against Nebraska.

Nebraska limited Chamberlain to 18 points in Lincoln, well below his

31-points-per-game average, setting the stage for Jim Kubacki, a 5-foot-7 senior guard from Toledo, Ohio, who watched most of the game from the Nebraska bench, dressed in street clothes.

Kubacki had been sidelined by a knee injury. When Cornhusker captain Gary Reimers suffered a leg cramp and left the game with Nebraska leading 39-33, Kubacki begged Coach Jerry Bush to let him go to the locker room and suit up. Finally, Bush consented.

With less than four minutes remaining in the game, Kubacki returned to the bench, his knee in a brace but ready to play. With 2:46 remaining, Kubacki hobbled onto the court.

Kansas tied the game on a basket by Chamberlain with 1:34 left to play. Bush told his players to stall for the final shot. With 30 seconds remaining in regulation, the players on Nebraska's bench began counting down.

"Get it to Jimmie," someone yelled with about eight seconds remaining. Herschell Turner passed the ball to



With the NCAA Tournament on the horizon, we thought we'd wet your appetite with some excerpts from every college basketball junkies perfect handbook.

Written by former sports editor for *The Sporting News*, Mike Douchant has put together 152 pages of off-the-wall trivia and a wealth of little known facts concerning the tourney.

THANKS A LOT

The NCAA playoffs present college basketball at its best. It's all a nice, neat package. Behind the scenes, however, the sport isn't always quite so proper when the TV cameras aren't rolling. Much too often, it's a matter of dollars and sense.

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The importance placed on not only participating in the NCAA Tournament, but also winning a game or two has reached the point that many athletic directors, boosters and college presidents will settle for little else.

Engulfed by a win-at-all-costs mentality, it's no wonder some coaches are paranoid. In the "what have you done for me lately" world of college coaching, these men were ushered out the door right after a season in which they directed a team to the NCAA playoffs: Don DeVoe (19-11 at Tennessee in 1988-89), Moe Iba (19-11 at Nebraska in 1985-86) and Norman Sloan (21-13 at Florida in 1988-89). Elsewhere, Eldon Miller was forced out at Ohio State before guiding the Buckeyes to the 1986 NIT title.

A WINNER EITHER WAY

The only Final Four game ever to have both coaches opposing his alma mater was in 1991, when Kansas' Roy Williams met his mentor, North Carolina's Dean Smith.

"I remember not seeing the end of the game," said Smith, who was ejected after a questionable technical foul in the Tar Heels' defeat. "I just want them (his alma mater and former assistant coach) to do well. That's why we don't

schedule each other (during the regular season). It was like playing an intrasquad game in terms of execution."

CLOSE CALLS

Eddie Sutton is the only coach to guide four different colleges (Creighton, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma State) to the NCAA playoffs. Sutton has a winning playoff record overall with each University, but he is one of four active coaches at least five games under .500 in tournament games decided in overtime or in regulation by fewer than six points.

The only Big Eight coach with a winning tournament record in "close" games is Iowa State's Johny Orr.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

Coaches Norm Stewart and Lefty Driesell have made the most appearances in the NCAA playoffs without ever reaching the Final Four. Twelve Stewart-coached teams at Missouri from 1976-92 played in the tournament but failed to reach the Final Four although Stewart wasn't with the 1989 squad because of illness. Driesell, now at James Madison, made 11 NCAA playoff appearances with Davidson and Maryland from 1966-86.

Three other active coaches with more than 400 victories at the major college level who, like Stewart and Driesell, probably will never receive the accolades they deserve until they direct a team to the Final Four are Princeton's Pete Carril, West Virginia's Gale Catlett and Iowa's Tom Davis.

COPING WITH A CURSE

Whether it's an example of players from mediocre to poor teams padding their stats during the regular season or the result of stiffer competition game in and game out in the NCAA playoffs for prize players from elite schools, there seems to be a curse of sorts on the premier point producers in Division I. No player in the last 11 years had the most points in a single game of a tournament and played for a Final Four team.

The lone player to lead the nation in scoring average while playing for a team that reached the NCAA Tournament championship was Clyde Lovelette, who carried Kansas to the 1952 title.

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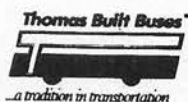
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Kubacki, who was about 15 feet from the basket. Three seconds and Kubacki turned and released a shot.

It swished in the net.

Chamberlain had time only to glance at the clock before the gun sounded and the celebration began. Kubacki was mobbed, hoisted in the air and carried off the court.

Don Bryant, Nebraska's assistant athletic director and sports information director, was a newspaper reporter at the time. He wrote in the *Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star*: "Henceforth, where ever Cornhuskers gather, they'll drink a toast to the little man who beat the big man."

Nine days later, Nebraska defeated Kansas State 55-48 in the Coliseum. The Wildcats, who had come to Lincoln ranked fourth in the nation, were No. 1 when the new Associated Press poll was announced. The voting had already been done.

Among the Cornhuskers' other memorable victories against Kansas in Lincoln was the one in late January of 1979, when Bob Moore hit a shot from just across midcourt as time elapsed in overtime to make the score 66-64.

"I pulled up, prayed, and it went in," Moore said afterward.

Though Kansas was ranked only 10th in the nation when it came to the Devaney Sports Center two years ago, Nebraska's 85-75 victory set up a rare double for the Cornhuskers. Six days later, Nebraska defeated Kansas again, 87-83 in the semifinals of the Big Eight Tournament in Kansas City.

The Jayhawks didn't lose again until the championship game of the NCAA Tournament — 72-65 to Duke.

Tony Farmer paced both of the Cornhusker victories, scoring 18 points and pulling down 13 rebounds in the first and getting 17 points and 13 rebounds in the second.

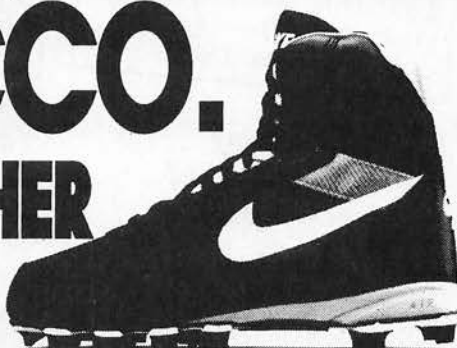
Nebraska upset Kansas at the Devaney Sports Center last season in a game that rivaled the one this year for drama. Jamar Johnson hit a 3-point shot from the right corner at the buzzer in overtime for the 81-79 win.

The Jayhawks, who also were ranked third a year ago, would have won the game in regulation had Bruce Chubick not blocked Alonzo Jamison's fast-break dunk attempt with :01 remaining.

Chubick, making his first career start in the game, also equalled his career-high rebound total with nine. ■

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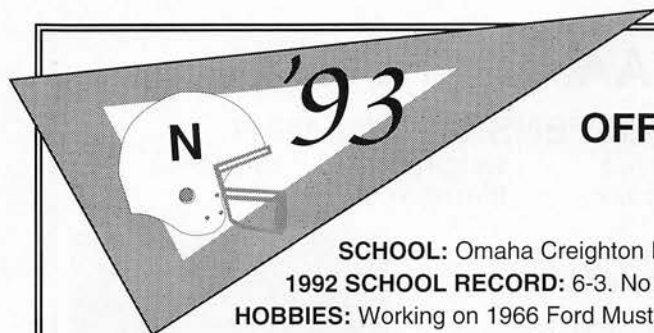


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FRED POLLACK

OFFENSIVE/ DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

HEIGHT: 6-4
BENCH: 340

WEIGHT: 290
SPEED: 4.8
BIRTHDAY: Dec. 27, 1974

SCHOOL: Omaha Creighton Prep (Nebraska); 3 year starter.
1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 6-3. No playoff action in Class A.

HOBBIES: Working on 1966 Ford Mustang.

HONORS: All-State, All-Metro, Offensive Lineman of the Year, Super-State, All-Division

OTHER SPORTS: Track (4 letters), wrestling (3 letters)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska

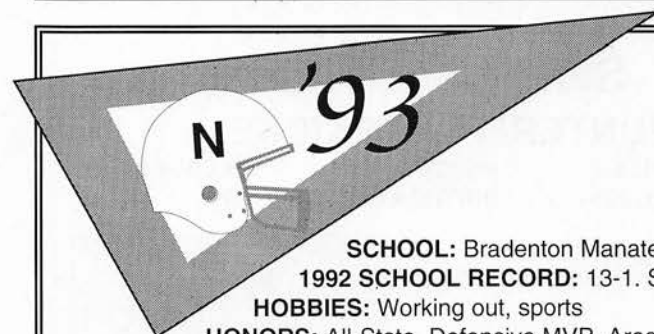
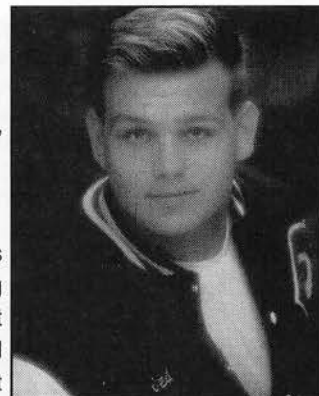
HIGH SCHOOL COACH TOM JAWORSKI: "Fred's a great physical talent. He is extremely strong and quick for his size. This is one big man with all the skills including hand coordination and great maneuverability. He moves laterally real well also. He's just learning the game and doesn't know how talented he is. Fred has come a long ways and that's not a knock on him. A redshirt season could help, but he's talented enough to start right away. As he gains more confidence, he should be a fine Division I player."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "He is listed as a defensive lineman and that is where we will start him. He's got good size, strength and is very mobile. Fred was in our camp this summer so we know that he has many great qualities."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I looked at the athletic support system and decided it was far better than any other school had to offer. Nebraska does a good job of preparing their student-athletes. The weight facility really caught my eye also."

CAPSULE: Pollack, whose Uncle Bob Sledge played offensive tackle for the Huskers (1986-88), is an undefeated wrestler this season and is the metro champion. He also throws the shot put and discus and won the metro discus gold medal as a junior.

SON of DIANE and LARRY POLLACK



JUSTIN STEPHENS

LINEBACKER

HEIGHT: 6-2
BENCH: 370

WEIGHT: 210
SPEED: 4.55
BIRTHDAY: Oct. 22, 1975

SCHOOL: Bradenton Manatee (Florida); 3 year starter.
1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 13-1. State champs in Class 5 A.

HOBBIES: Working out, sports

HONORS: All-State, Defensive MVP, Area Player of the Year, All-Area

OTHER SPORTS: Weight lifting (4 letters, some personal bests are a 700-pound dead lift, 470-pound squat and a school record 300-pound power clean).

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Mississippi State

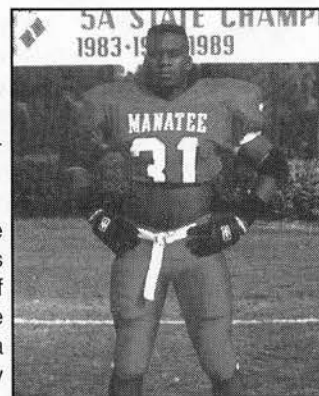
HIGH SCHOOL COACH JOE KANNAN: "Justin is a great athlete and an unbelievable physical specimen. His potential is unlimited. He will only be a 17-year-old when he walks on the campus, but plays older than that. If you had to compare him to a certain type of athlete, it would have to be Tommie Frazier. He brings to the defensive side of the ball the same intangibles Tommie bring to the offense — determination, aggressiveness and a willingness to win. He's a great one. He may be the best linebacker in the state in my opinion."

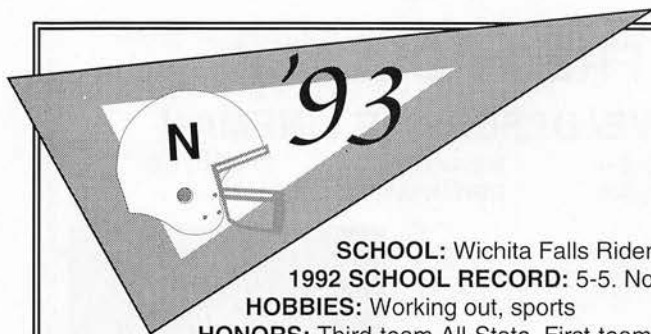
RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Justin really came on during his senior year. We think he's an inside linebacker because of his great strength. He runs well and should have quite an impact on our linebacking corps."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I really felt like I was needed at Nebraska. I think there is a chance that I could get some playing time early and that also makes me feel good. It will be weird being so far away from home, but all the players and coaches made me feel right at home so it shouldn't be that big a deal. The fact that Tommie is already up there was also part of my decision. He said he really liked it so I believe him."

CAPSULE: Stephens is rated as one of the top linebackers to come out of the Sunshine State this year and is listed as one of the top defensive players in the South. As a senior he had 140 tackles and two interceptions. Stephens has been selected to play in the Florida-Georgia All-Star game on June 19 and was captain and the Manatee MVP on defense.

SON of SHIRLEY JONES and ALFONSO STEPHENS





AARON TAYLOR

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

HEIGHT: 6-2

WEIGHT: 295

SPEED: 4.9

BENCH: 375

BIRTHDAY: Jan. 21, 1975

SCHOOL: Wichita Falls Rider (Texas); 3 year starter.
1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 5-5. No playoff action in Class 5 A.

HOBBIES: Working out, sports

HONORS: Third-team All-State, First-team All-District, All-Area

OTHER SPORTS: Track (3 letters in the shot put, discus)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Texas Tech, SMU, New Mexico State

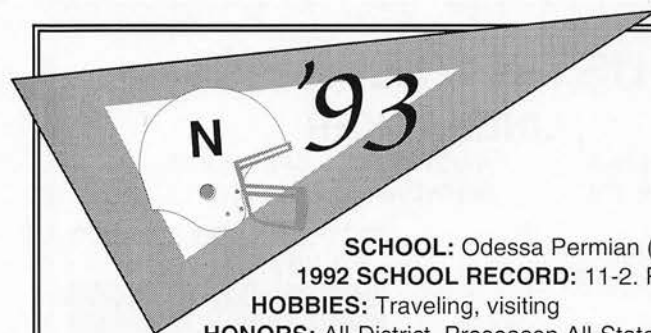
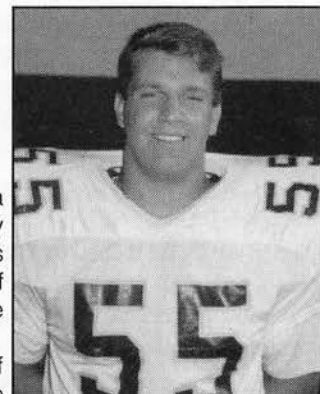
HIGH SCHOOL COACH WAYNE LeBLEU: "I think he'll fit in real well in the Nebraska system. He's a big kid who can move real well and can dunk a basketball. He is definitely one of the best athletes I have ever seen. Has good athletic ability for a big kid and has strong legs and lots of determination. He was a power blocker for us and we ran most of our plays behind him. He's only played the game since his freshman year, but I believe his best football is still ahead of him."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Aaron will start on the offensive side of scrimmage. A very powerful, strong player, Taylor always seems to come up with the good blocking angle. He should be an excellent offensive lineman for us."

WHY NEBRASKA: "I really liked the facilities, coaching staff and players there. I lived in Germany, so the cold weather was never really a concern of mine. I found the coaches really down to Earth and not trying to sell themselves like other schools. There was no beating around the bush with them."

CAPSULE: Taylor who grew up in Germany because of his dad's involvement with the military, has only been playing football since his freshman year. He became a starter as a sophomore. Doubling as the team's punter, Taylor was also selected to the All-Area team at that position after averaging 40.7 yards per punt. He also rushed for two touchdowns and one two-point conversion in short-yardage, goal-line situations. At Rider, Taylor was a teammate with 1992 Husker recruit Scott Saltsman, a noseguard who redshirted last season. In track he qualified for regionals last year in the shot put with a best throw of 56-10 and is an avid weight lifter.

SON of DEANNA and WAYNE TAYLOR



SHANE WELLS

PUNTER/ PLACEKICKER

HEIGHT: 5-7

WEIGHT: 160

SPEED: 4.9

BENCH: 225

BIRTHDAY: Jan. 19, 1975

SCHOOL: Odessa Permian (Texas); 3 year starter.
1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 11-2. Regional champions in Class 5 A.

HOBBIES: Traveling, visiting

HONORS: All-District, Preseason All-State

OTHER SPORTS: Soccer (1 letter)

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Arkansas, Texas, Texas El-Paso

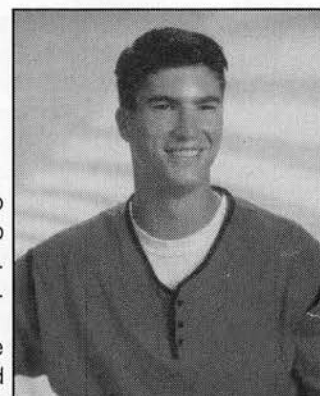
HIGH SCHOOL COACH TAM HOLLINGSHEAD: "He's going to be a great addition to the Nebraska program. His strength is probably punting because he is a great two-step punter. While he's not physically big, he's a great competitor and a good all-round athlete. Shane is very dedicated to his kicking and attended a lot of summer camps to improve. He can turn the ball over quickly and gets a good rotation on it."

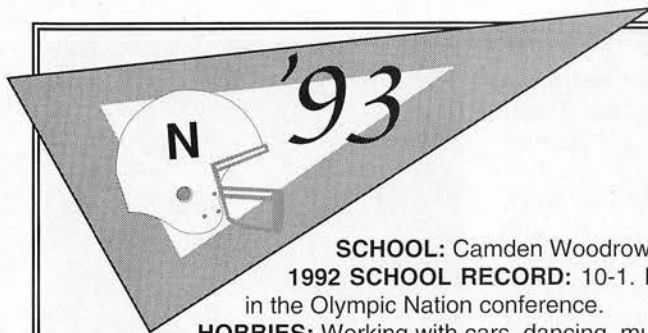
RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Sean can both punt and kick for us. The advantage for Sean, as far as we are concerned, was that he did both in high school and did both well. That gives up a lot of flexibility and we are anticipating that he will be able to do both of those duties for us."

WHY NEBRASKA: "During the third game of the season, Milt Tenopir came down to watch me kick and that showed me that Nebraska was very dedicated to recruiting me. It was quite a sight to go to Nebraska and I got to meet Mike Stigge (Nebraska's senior punter). That was a big help in my decision. I am very fortunate to be scholarshiped as I'm a kicker. It's not often that kickers get such notice. I hope to come in and do something."

CAPSULE: Wells set school records for career PATs (133); career point kicking (181); career field goals made (16); most points in a game (13, twice); most PATs in a game; and most field goals in a game (three). He had a 39.0 punting average last season despite being hampered by an ingrown toe nail during the first five weeks of the season and a 38.4 career punting average. His career long field goal was a 45 yarder against Abilene Cooper. Joins current NU placekicker Byron Bennett as the second scholarship kicker from Texas.

SON of SHARON and RON WELLS





RAMONE WORTHY

RUNNING BACK/ LINEBACKER

HEIGHT: 6-1

WEIGHT: 215

SPEED: 4.4

BENCH: 350

BIRTHDAY: Nov. 10, 1973

SCHOOL: Camden Woodrow Wilson (N.J.); 4 year starter.

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 10-1. Finished the season ranked No. 1 in the Olympic Nation conference.

HOBBIES: Working with cars, dancing, music

HONORS: Tri-State Athlete, Offensive Back of the Year, MVP, All-Shore, All-County, All-Area, All-State, All-Group, All-East, All-South Jersey, All-Delaware (which includes Southern New Jersey, Delaware and portions of Pennsylvania).

OTHER SPORTS: Track (2 letters, competes in the 100, 200 and throws the shot).

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska, Wisconsin, Maryland, Temple, Rutgers

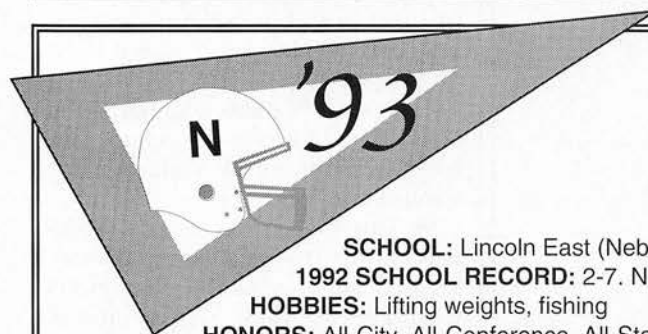
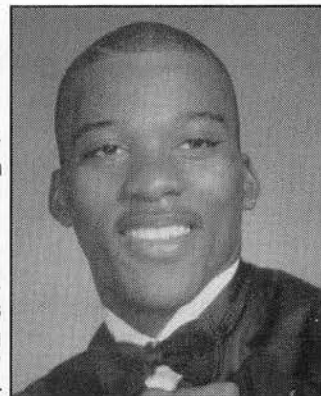
HIGH SCHOOL COACH DARRELL WILSON: "Ramone is a quality student and athlete. I think Nebraska is getting another quality person who loves the game of football. He has grown tremendously just in the short time he's been here. He was truly a man among boys here this year. I predict he will contend for national honors before his career is over."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Ramone could play a number of places for us. He could line up at fullback, I-back or linebacker. He has the size to play all those places and the athletic ability as well."

WHY NEBRASKA: "When I went out there I had a terrific visit and just seemed to fit in real well with the players. The coaching staff was very nice, too. Everyone seemed to be for real. I felt as if my academics could be taken care of there and that's important. That piece of paper is everything. As far as football tradition, I don't think anyone can touch them."

CAPSULE: A distant cousin of former Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier, Worthy gained 1,554 yards in nine games (177.0 yards per game and 8.0 yards per attempt) and scored 20 touchdowns last year as the lone back in a Run-and-Shoot offense. As a linebacker he tallied 90 tackles (50 solo), six quarterback sacks, two interceptions, three caused fumbles and one recovery. He has run a 6.52 electronic 55 meters, a 10.7 100 meters and a 22.6 split in the 4x200-meter relay. Worthy transferred to Woodrow Wilson as a senior from Manchester High.

SON of VERA and RICHARD WORTHY



JON ZATECHKA

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

HEIGHT: 6-3

WEIGHT: 275

SPEED: 4.9

BENCH: 385

BIRTHDAY: June 10, 1975

SCHOOL: Lincoln East (Nebraska); 3 year starter.

1992 SCHOOL RECORD: 2-7. No playoff action in Class A.

HOBBIES: Lifting weights, fishing

HONORS: All-City, All-Conference, All-State, Super-State (All-Class and All-State), Super Prep All-American, Blue Chip All-American, nominated for Mars/AAU All-American Scholar/Athlete

OTHER SPORTS: Track (2 letters, throws the shot).

OFFICIAL VISITS: Nebraska

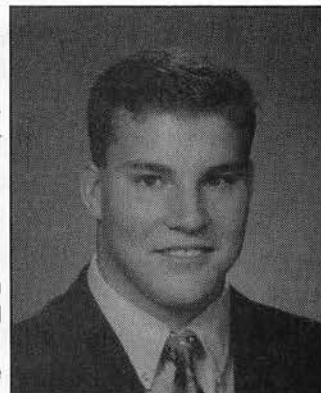
HIGH SCHOOL COACH LEE ZENTIC: "Jon is a hard worker with good size. He is No. 1 in his class and works hard in the off season. He started both ways for us and will be an outstanding player for Nebraska. When we needed yards, we would always run behind him. He is also very coachable and has an outstanding attitude."

RECRUITING COORD. DAVE GILLESPIE: "Jon will start on the offensive side of the ball. He is a very intelligent player who does everything right technically. He has good athletic ability and speed to make some really big plays."

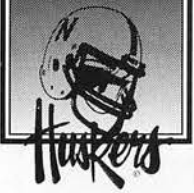
WHY NEBRASKA: "Nebraska was my best all-round choice. It was close to home and that was important. Because of my brother being there (Rob), I knew a lot about the system and the coaching staff. No one in the country can match their facilities and the opportunities Nebraska can give a player."

CAPSULE: The "little" brother of Husker offensive tackle Rob Zatechka (6-5, 315), Jon also started at left defensive tackle as a senior and recorded 56 tackles (31 solo). Zatechka has made the honor roll every semester and like his brother before him is at the top of his high school graduating class with a 4.0. He has been admitted to the Nebraska honors program. His father, Doug, works at Nebraska as the housing director. While Zatechka visited only Nebraska, he was offered scholarships by Oklahoma, Iowa, Iowa State and Kansas State. He was recruited by 14 Division I and four Division II football programs.

SON of JANE and DOUG ZATECHKA



ITEMS

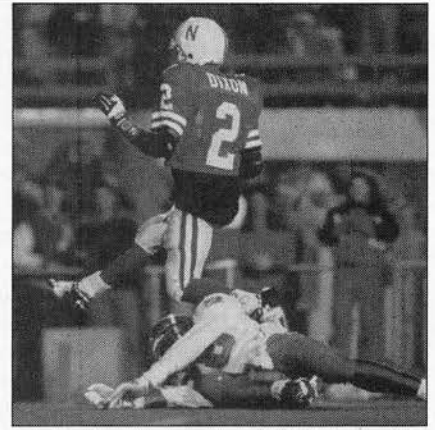


◆Former quarterback Mike Grant and center Jim S.cott head up the Husker Hoops this spring. The team, composed of senior football players, travels the state playing whatever competition can be scrounged up for charity and laughs. The team's first opponent will be a group of "has-beens" including Turner Gill, Craig

Sundberg, Jerry Gdowski and Steve Taylor. The inside word is that Turner is the biggest trash talker and plans on backing it up.

◆Huskers Mark Gillman, Riley Washington, Willis Brown and Tyrone Hughes are on the track team this spring. Gillman is throwing the shot and the others are running sprints. Freshman Riley Washington currently has one of the fastest 55-meter times in the nation.

◆Split end Corey Dixon (singer) and linebacker Donta Jones (drums) are putting together a band and we may see them performing publicly.



Split end Corey Dixon (2) takes his high-energy moves to the stage.

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◆Several football players are involved in a junior high mentor program developed by Nancy Osborne called "Teammates." Players are matched with junior high school kids throughout Lincoln for various activities with the kids to provide guidance and to help the kids during the tough periods of growing up.

◆Trev Alberts recently gave a talk to Lincoln Public Schools Special Education students and toured them on campus. Alberts also was a recent guest on KLIN radio addressing the issue of pay for play for college athletes as proposed by State Senator Earnie Chambers.

◆Troy Branch was one of 11 football players from around the country voted a member of the prestigious College Football Associations "Goodworks Team." Among the many activities that earned him recognition were his efforts in coordinating a Help the Homeless program that gathered clothing and canned foods in conjunction with the Lincoln Housing Authority.

◆Byron Bennett, John Parrella and Rob Zatechka all spoke at the Midget Football Banquet in Lincoln and helped present awards to potential future Huskers. Jim Scott and Will Shields were also recent speakers at an academic recognition banquet in Falls City and Wayne.

◆Two intramural basketball teams formed of Husker footballers are vying for the intramural crown this winter. Lorenzo Brinkley and Kenny Wilhite play on a team engineered by coaching whiz Ernie Beler. ■

CLASS OF 1993

From page 12

Nine scholarships and one week remained. Stephens grabbed a scholarship before the final weekend for visits while Alford and Peter were still mincing. During that final weekend, Dennis followed Stephens.

The Huskers' advantage with Peter was older brother Christian already on campus. With five days to go, Peter came on.

"Recruiting was a little mind boggling because I heard from all the big time programs," said Peter. "I had a real hard decision but Nebraska has a great program and they had something the other programs didn't have and that was a chance to play alongside my brother."

Then came Alford: "Nebraska was the only school that sent their head coach in to see my mother. They did their homework. It was a tough decision because Maryland was closer to home, but Nebraska just seemed right. Their coaches were nicer and seemed to have a genuine concern about me and my mom's well being."

Thanks to a holiday visit the Huskers had a game breaking wing back in the mold of Irving Fryer. Both Peter and Alford were in the fold with three days remaining. However, that didn't keep things uninteresting with three days to go.

Noster had committed to Baylor. The Bears were putting together the top class in the Southwest Conference and Noster thought he wanted to be a part of it, but he couldn't stop thinking about Nebraska. He visited Nebraska late and knew that he had to change his mind.

Heskeew went to the wire with his decision. Both Oklahoma State and Nebraska had come on late for this Oklahoma all-stater.

Meanwhile out West, Booker thought about leaving the coast and looked toward the Rockies. With one day to spare, he chose the Huskers.

"California players have always had success at Nebraska," said Booker. "My gut feeling is that it was the best place for me."

The Huskers closed out recruiting with only 24 hours to spare by signing Worthy and Jackson.

While Nebraska came away with a good-looking All-American class, it wasn't as easy as the letters of intent would make it appear; it was a true nail-biter to the end. ■

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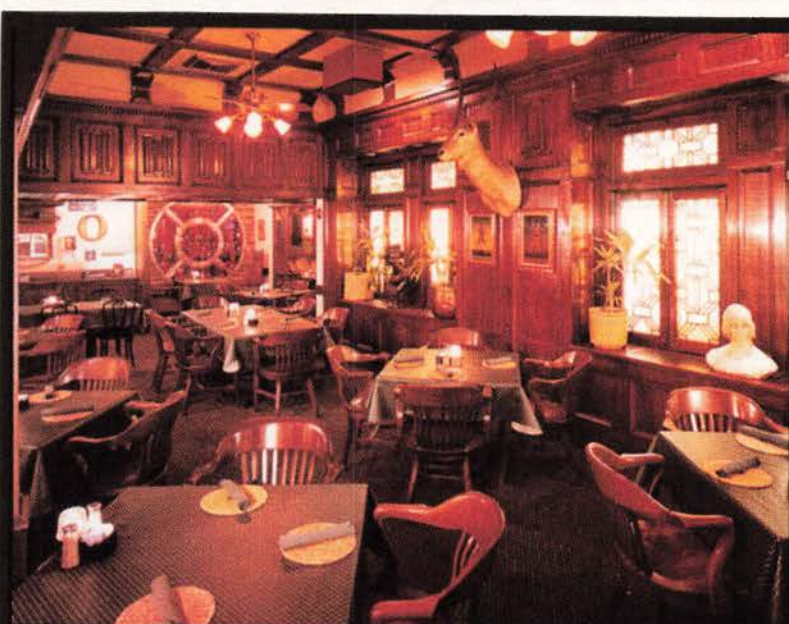
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Avoidance of Bad Breaks Could Keep Sagmoen, Team Going Strong

Nebraska center fielder Marc Sagmoen has experienced some bad luck in the 31st games of his last two baseball seasons.

Last year, Sagmoen was leading the Big Eight Conference in hitting with a .446 average and led the team in nearly every offensive category when he broke his right wrist diving for a drive to center field in the 31st game of the season.

The previous season, Sagmoen, who bats and throws left-handed, suffered a broken left arm during the 31st game of the season at Yakima Valley (Wash.) College. This time he was victimized by an errant fastball and missed Yakima Valley's final nine games.

Perhaps Sagmoen should consider a little pine time during Nebraska's 31st game this season.

"Actually, last year I joked that I'd sit out this year's 31st game. But there's no way," Sagmoen said. "Baseball players are suspicious, but I'll take my chances."

It was during the early days of February that Sagmoen was talking about the Cornhuskers' 31st game of the 1993 season. A freezing rain had made the sidewalks leading into the baseball offices at Buck Beltzer Field in Lincoln, Neb., as slippery as a Gaylord Perry spitter. Snow still covered the baseball field on which the Cornhuskers opened their season Feb. 26 against Western Illinois.

Forget the 31st game. On this day, Sagmoen was itching for the opener.

"We feel like a bullet in the barrel of a gun," Sagmoen said. "We're waiting to fly out and go play. Our expectations are so high. We want to prove to ourselves and others that we're good."

The preseason mood around Buck Beltzer Field was decidedly upbeat in the days leading up to Nebraska's

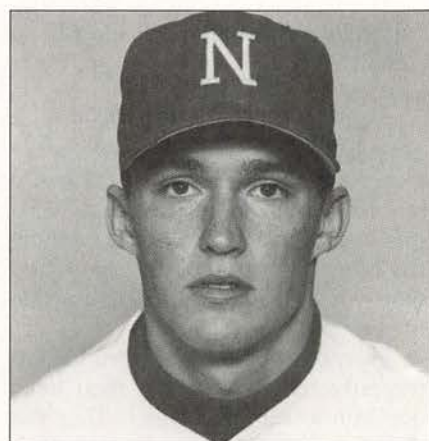
opening day. And why not? The Cornhuskers could pass the time thinking about:

- A recruiting class ranked 19th by *Collegiate Baseball*.
- A No. 32 ranking in a preseason poll by the same publication.
- And a projection by *Collegiate Baseball* and *Baseball America* that Nebraska will be one of 48 teams that will play in the NCAA Tournament.

That's exciting stuff, particularly for a program that has failed to qualify for the four-team Big Eight Conference Tournament three of the past four seasons. Nebraska's last NCAA Tournament appearance came in 1985.

"We've gotten a lot of hype, and the players like that," Nebraska Coach John Sanders said. "It really builds for confidence inside and makes people say, 'Hey, let's put something up this year and get it done.' I feel really confident about what we have going."

Sanders probably liked what his team had going through 31 games last season. With Sagmoen in the lineup, Nebraska was 20-11 and went 3-1 in its league-opening series against



If center fielder Marc Sagmoen can avoid bad luck, an All-American year could be possible as well as a run at a national title.

Kansas. Without him, the Cornhuskers won 11 of their last 25 games and went 8-12 in the last five conference series.

On a cold, gray and drizzly day in Lincoln, the mention of Sagmoen takes care of any gloom Sanders might be feeling. And during this preseason chat, one got the feeling Sanders' mood didn't need much help.

"In the offseason, I've slept a little better. The food tastes better. Everything is better," Sanders said.

Including Sagmoen's right wrist.

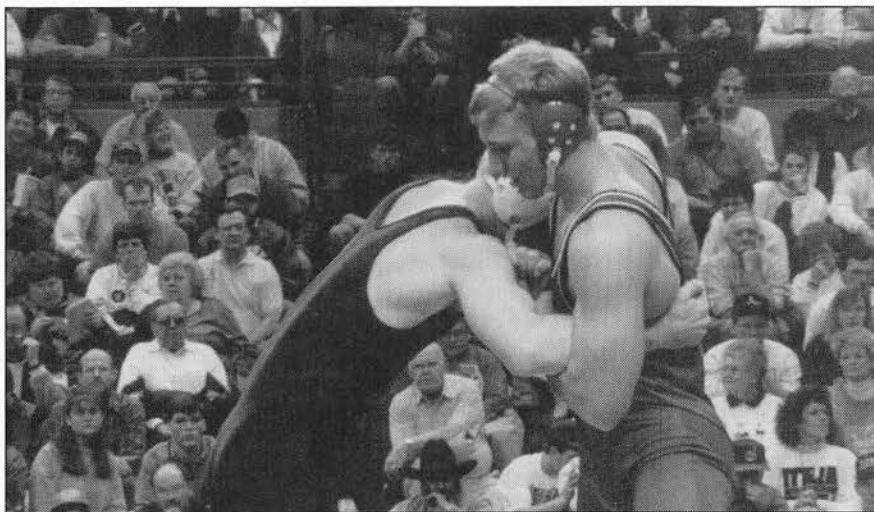
The 5-foot-11, 190-pounder is a first-team preseason All-American. He's also the Cornhuskers' captain.

Sagmoen and Sanders are looking to have some fun this season.

Six returning position players, including five who hit more than .300, will help matters. Freshman outfielder Darin Erstad, a 13th-round draft pick of the New York Mets in last June's draft, is expected to make an immediate impact.



With returners such as outfielder Jed Dalton (28), Coach John Sander (left) feels this could be one of the most productive Nebraska teams in recent years.



In addition to Sagmoen, the other returning starters are outfielders Jed Dalton (.358, eight homers last season) and James Garcia (.243); short-stop/second baseman/third baseman Darin Petersen (.329, seven homers); catcher/designated hitter Sean McKenna (.312, nine homers) and first baseman Troy Brohawn (.311, seven homers).

On the mound, the Cornhuskers lost three starters but return senior Steve Boyd, who set the school record for saves last season with nine, and starter Craig Sanders, the coach's son.

The Cornhuskers' six returning pitchers have only 11 starts between them, and there are only two left-handers on the staff. Sanders will look for some of his newcomers to pitch in key roles.

"I also think our defense and offense will catapult our pitching into stability," Sanders said. "I think our offense and our defense will allow for forgiveness early in the year."

Sanders has confidence in his staff.

"We can put guys up there that are big, strong and throw hard. Velocity can make up for a lot of mistakes, and I'd say our pitching is characterized by a lot better velocity from top to bottom," Sanders said.

Nebraska will need strong pitching throughout the season. The Cornhuskers will play all but three of their 56 games against NCAA Division I foes. They'll play 19 games against top 20 teams and 33 against teams in *Collegiate Baseball's* Top 40.

WRESTLING

Even after Nebraska defeated wrestling powers Iowa State and Iowa in back-to-back matches on the same day, Cornhusker Coach Tim Neumann wasn't putting his program on the

Senior Corey Olson (above) helped the Husker wrestling team earn its highest ranking in school history when Nebraska claimed the No. 2 spot in late January.

level of Hawkeye Coach Dan Gable's powerhouse.

"Gable's human, and this year he has a human team," Neumann said. "I just feel we beat them in a dual meet, but by no stretch of the imagination is our program on the level of theirs. But we're getting there."

The Cornhuskers took a major step in the right direction this season. They achieved the highest wrestling ranking in school history by moving up to No. 2 in late January in the *Amateur Wrestling News/National Wrestling Coaches' Association* poll. The ranking followed Nebraska's second-place finish in the high-powered National Dual Championships in Lincoln, where the Cornhuskers defeated Iowa State and Iowa before losing to Penn State in the finale.

Before the season began, Coach Neumann said his team would be a legitimate title contender at the March 18-20 NCAA Championships in Ames, Iowa. The Cornhuskers' performance in the National Duals — and then in subsequent meets — backed up his contention.

Nebraska's experience has helped. Eight seniors made their final home appearance Feb. 5 in a 22-9 dual win against No. 8 Minnesota. The senior list includes three wrestlers who have spent five years in the program — John Buxton, Tommy Robbins and Corey Olson. Rick Coltvet, Rulon Gardner, Matt Lindland and Ovanes Onigian are in their second year

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with Nebraska, while Tony Purler transferred from Oklahoma State.

MEN'S TENNIS

Nebraska men's tennis Coach Kerry McDermott gritted his teeth and gutted out last season. His team finished fifth in the Big Eight, the lowest finish under McDermott since his first year as Nebraska's coach in 1982.

The Cornhuskers' No. 1 player, Matthias Mueller, redshirted, as did another 1991 starter, Anthony Kotarac.

Their return will help. So much so

that McDermott is predicting that Nebraska and Colorado will be the teams to beat at the April 23-25 Big Eight Championships.

McDermott said Germany's Mueller, Sweden's Karl Falkland and freshman Jan Andersen of Norway will battle for the No. 1 singles spot. McDermott said he doesn't expect that position to be settled until Nebraska starts the conference portion of its schedule on April 3 at home against Missouri.

The Cornhuskers return five of last year's top six players.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

While the Cornhusker men's team has three players battling for the No. 1 singles spot, women's coach Scott Jacobson said he knows who his top player will be this season — senior Zarina Galvan of San Diego.

"It's pretty cut and dried," said Jacobson, in his second season as head coach. "She's excelled in tournament situations better than anyone in the program."

Jacobson said Ann Flannery, a senior from San Antonio, Texas, is the likely No. 2 player.

Like the Nebraska men's team, the Cornhusker women finished fifth in the Big Eight last season.

In addition to Galvan and Flannery, the returners are sophomore Frauke Hachtmann and seniors Heidi Junius and Tina Coutretsis.

The Cornhuskers will be tested in a big way March 19-27, when they will face five California schools in duals.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Cal Bentz's coaching focus expanded from guiding only the Nebraska men's team to also leading the women's squad.

Bentz took over the women's program from Ray Huppert, who resigned last March after coaching the team for 16 seasons.

The coaching shuffle has been a major change that both teams have seemed to handle well. Now if they can only handle Kansas at the March 4-6 Big Eight Championships in Oklahoma City.

The Nebraska men have won the last 13 league titles. The Cornhusker women have won five of the last eight.

At this season's league meet, Kansas and Nebraska are the favorites to capture league crowns — in both the men's and women's competitions. Last season, the Kansas men finished runner-up for the sixth straight year. In the meantime, the Jayhawk women beat the Cornhuskers for the crown.

Fans got something of a preview of the conference meet Feb. 6 when the teams met in a dual at Lincoln's Bob Devaney Sports Center pool. The Kansas women earned a 143-100 win, while the Nebraska men prevailed 138-105.

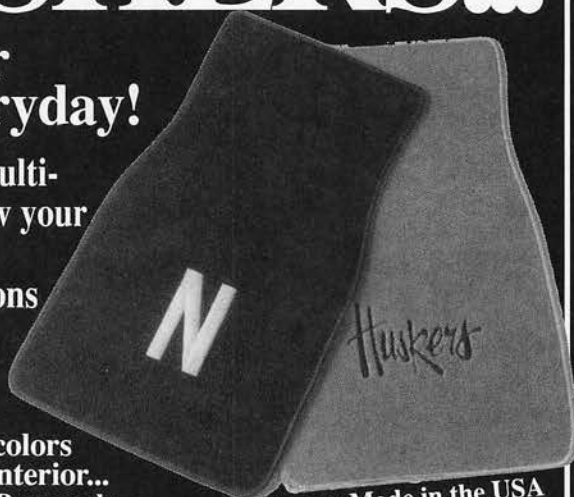
Nebraska's Chris Ford, a confident freshman from Australia, said he thinks the victory over Kansas estab-

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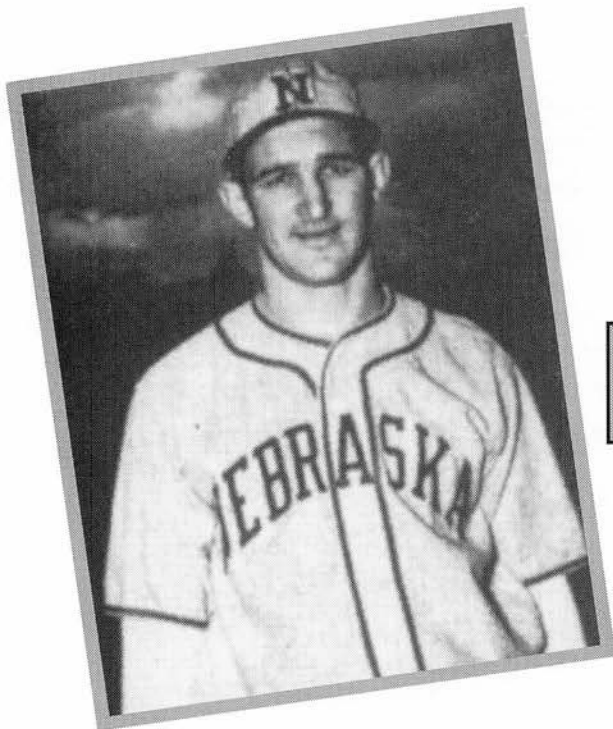
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PRIDE of the HUSKERS

New York Yankee Bob Cerv
hailed from the plains of
Nebraska. This is the rest of
his story.

by Mike Babcock

Bob Cerv was a youngster in Weston, Neb., when he decided he would one day play baseball for the New York Yankees. That was his goal.

His father regularly drove a refrigerator truck, loaded with farm produce, to New York City, and young Bob occasionally went along.

It was on those trips that he visited Yankee Stadium and made his decision to become a Yankee. "I once saw Lou Gehrig hit three home runs in a game," Cerv said recently.

In 1951, Yankee manager Casey Stengel called for Cerv to pinch hit against Detroit Tigers' pitcher Dizzy Trout. Cerv, a nervous rookie, stepped into the batter's box at Yankee Stadium for the first time, with two runners on base. He struck out.

Soon after, Cerv got his first major league base hit off of another Tigers' pitcher, Virgil Trucks.

During his 12 major league seasons, Cerv collected 623 more base hits, 105 of which were home runs. In 1958, he hit .305 with 38 home runs and 104 runs-batted-in for Kansas City, statistics made more remarkable by the fact he played with a broken jaw for half the season and went five weeks without hitting a home run.

The jaw was wired shut for nearly two months, and all of his meals had to come from a blender.

Cerv was picked as the American League starter in left field for the 1958 All-Star Game in Baltimore.

Hall of Famer Ted Williams finished second to Cerv in the voting, which was conducted among the players, managers and coaches.

"Ted Williams 'caddied' (entered the game) for me in the sixth or seventh inning," said Cerv, who was tied with Williams for third in the league in hitting with a .323 average at the All-Star break. He had hit 22 home runs and driven in 62 runs.

Cerv hit a single and was intentionally walked in three at-bats in the American League's 4-3 victory in the All-Star Game.

According to a Kansas City sports writer: "Cerv was a hero in a town that had few sports idols."

If it hadn't been for former Nebraska baseball Coach Tony Sharpe, Cerv might never have become a major league baseball player. It's difficult to say how things would have turned out if Sharpe hadn't encouraged him to go out for the Cornhusker baseball team.

Cerv went to Nebraska on the GI Bill after spending three years in service following his graduation from Weston High in 1943. As a Nebraska freshman in 1946, he aspired to play basketball for the Cornhuskers.

He and dozens of others. The NU Coliseum had three basketball courts, including one on the stage, and when Coach Harry Good assembled his team, "there must've been 25 or 30 guys at each basket," Cerv said.

Cerv was part of the crowd at one

of the baskets on the stage. Not long before the season opener against South Dakota, Good sent Sharpe, his assistant coach, up on the stage to assemble what amounted to a scout team. "Tony gave us South Dakota's plays," Cerv said. And when the scout team scrimmaged against the varsity, "we beat the heck out of them."

It wasn't long before Cerv was practicing on the main court with the rest of the Cornhusker varsity. That's how his basketball career at Nebraska began. Before it was over, Cerv had earned four varsity letters and played on two Big Seven championship teams.

In 1948-49, Nebraska was 16-10 and tied Oklahoma for the conference title. The Cornhuskers won a playoff against Oklahoma, 57-56, to advance to an NCAA District playoff in Kansas City against Oklahoma A&M (State).

When Moe Iba took Nebraska to the NCAA Tournament in 1986, it was described as the Cornhuskers' first such appearance. "That's what people claimed. But I have an NCAA wristwatch," Cerv said.

In 1949-50, Nebraska was in a position to qualify for the NCAA Tournament again. But the Cornhuskers lost their final regular-season game to Kansas State, 63-60, and finished in a three-way tie for the Big Seven title with the Wildcats and Kansas.

Cerv, a starting guard his final



three seasons, earned a reputation for his aggressive play. The student yearbooks described him as "scrappy," a "spark plug," a "fireball," a "ball-stealing specialist."

"I guess you'd call me a point guard," Cerv said. "I ran the show."

When the basketball season ended, Sharpe moved outside and became the Cornhusker baseball coach. And in the spring of 1947, he told Cerv he needed some players. Cerv had the background. He had been successful in both American Legion and town-team baseball from an early age. So Sharpe didn't have to do much convincing.

Nebraska won two Big Seven baseball championships during Cerv's four seasons, in 1948 and 1950, when he was a senior. The 1950 team finished

home runs, 22 triples and 104 runs-batted-in for the American Association's Kansas City Blues. He was called up on Aug. 1, 1951.

Cerv's best seasons came in Kansas City, which joined the major leagues in 1955 when Philadelphia's American League franchise was relocated there. But he played in three World Series with the Yankees, including the 1956 championship team. Cerv pinch hit a home run against the Brooklyn Dodgers during the 1955 World Series.

While in Kansas City, after being traded by Casey Stengel, Cerv was assigned to room on the road with a young Roger Maris, who had come to the Athletics in a trade with the Cleveland Indians. They became

friends, and when Maris broke Babe Ruth's single-season home run record by hitting 61 in 1961, they shared an apartment in New York.

"We both had large families, who didn't want to come to New

York (to live)," Cerv said. "I was with Roger all the way through his ordeal."

Mickey Mantle also lived with them from time to time for the three years Cerv was in New York.

A chronic sore knee, the same one he injured playing basketball his junior year at Nebraska, led to Cerv's retirement in 1962. He left baseball to try hotel management and car sales, neither of which could satisfy his urge to pull on a baseball uniform.

When John F. Kennedy College opened in Wahoo, Neb., during the mid-1960s, he became the school's head baseball coach. Later, he also coached the basketball team there.

After Kennedy College closed, Cerv moved on to Sioux Empire Junior College in Hawarden, Iowa, where he coached baseball until his retirement. He now lives in Lincoln.

Cerv bemoans what he considers the watering down of talent that has come with major league expansion. "There are so many teams," he said.

As a youngster, there was only one team as far as he was concerned—the New York Yankees. And now you know the rest of the story. ■

During his first 12 major league seasons, Cerv collected 623 more base hits, 105 of which were home runs. In 1958, he hit .305 with 38 home runs and 104 RBI for Kansas City.

with a 16-8 record and lost the first two games in a best-of-three NCAA playoff against Bradley.

Cerv won the Big Seven batting title with a .467 average in conference games. His overall batting average was .444, third-best in school history. Cerv's regular-season numbers included: eight home runs, 10 doubles, 36 RBI, 12 steals and 31 runs scored. He received All-Big Seven, All-Midwest and All-American honors from the American Baseball Coaches Association.

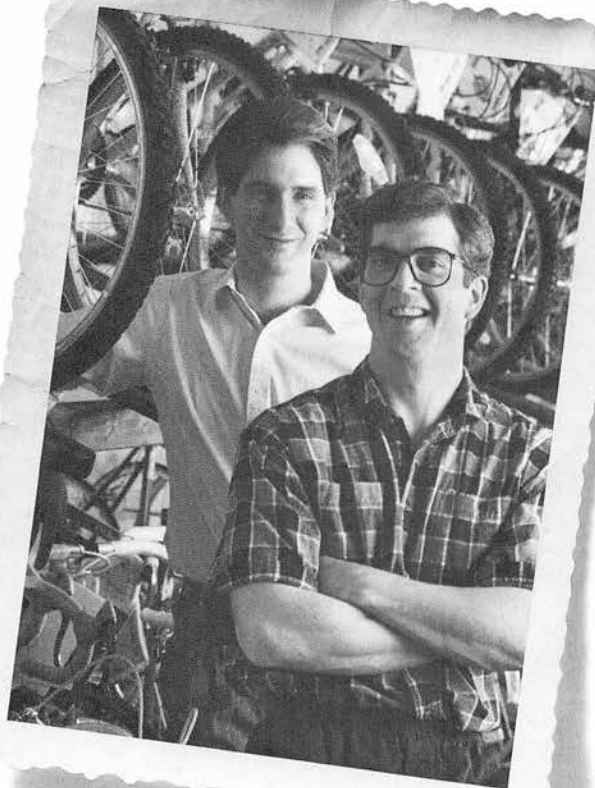
Cerv hit three home runs in a game against Iowa State in 1950, a conference record he still shares, and he stole five bases in a game against Colorado in 1948, which also is a shared conference record.

Cerv was fast. He ran the 100-yard dash in 10.4 seconds before he was slowed by a knee injury, suffered playing basketball when he was a Cornhusker junior.

As he had always said he would, Cerv signed with the New York Yankees in 1950. He was 25-years-old.

He advanced quickly, getting a call to New York in his second professional season, after hitting .344 with 29

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ALL SPORTS

From page 40

lished the Husker men as the team to beat at the conference meet.

"You could tell Kansas rested for this meet, and we trained right through it and still beat them by 30 points," said Ford, who won the 200 backstroke and was a member of the winning 400 freestyle relay team. "This meet demonstrated we're well ahead of them right now."

Nebraska men can count on a strong performance from sophomore diver Kevin McMahon. He finished first on both the 1- and 3-meter boards against Kansas.

"I want to do what I know I can do — finish in the top six on the 1-meter, 3-meter and platform," McMahon said. He said a top-three finish, or even an NCAA title, is realistic on the 1-meter board.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK

The Nebraska teams end their indoor seasons March 12-13 at the NCAA Championships in Indianapolis. The outdoor season begins April 3 with the Tyson Invitational at Fayetteville, Ark.

The Conference Outdoor Championships take place May 17-18 in Boulder, Colo., and the NCAA outdoor meet is June 2-5 in New Orleans.

In January, before the indoor season began, Head Coach Gary Pepin said he was excited about his men's team.

"We have a solid team up and down the line," he said. "We have a lot of numbers, so I think we'll have a good team. We're young, but we're going to be better."

The Cornhusker men will try to improve on 1992's second- and 35th-place finishes at the Big Eight and NCAA outdoor meets, respectively.

The Nebraska women finished first in the outdoor league meet for the 13th straight season in 1992 and ended up third at the NCAA meet.

Before the indoor season began, Pepin questioned the NU women's depth.

"We have a number of quality athletes, but we're going to have to compete hard and have healthy athletes and place them in the right events. We're not loaded in one event after another, but we still have a good team that's certainly good enough."

MEN AND WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

The Nebraska men's team, coached by the talkative Francis Allen, will shoot for Allen's 11th league title March 19-20 in Norman, Okla. The Cornhuskers, second in the nation to Stanford in 1992, will gun for Allen's eighth national crown at the April 15-17 NCAA meet in Albuquerque, N.M. Allen's team will be considered among the favorites.

As usual, Allen was talking about winning it all before the season began. And his team was undefeated through

its first four meets this season.

"I can't help but think we're the best all-around team in the country," Allen said. "We returned the top freshman in the nation from last year in Richard Grace, the top scoring sophomore in Dennis Harrison and the top high school all-arounder in Jason Christie."

The Cornhusker women will go after Coach Rick Walton's fifth league crown March 20 in Norman, Okla. They finished runner-up to Missouri last season.

But Walton's main goal before the season began was to qualify for the April 15-17 NCAA Championships in Corvallis, Ore.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF

Craig Poet, a senior, returns as the Nebraska men's team's top golfer, according to Coach Larry Romjue. He will be pushed by junior Brad Dubisar and senior Travis Hopper, among others.

The men's league meet is April 26-27 in Hutchinson, Kan.

"The Big Eight is as strong as ever with Oklahoma State No. 1 and Oklahoma No. 2 nationally," Romjue said. "However, everyone else has also improved."

Nebraska women's coach Robin Krapfl said junior Stephanie Flood and senior Stephanie Hupp will be the Nos. 1 and 2 golfers.

The Big Eight women's meet is April 26-27 in Lincoln. ■

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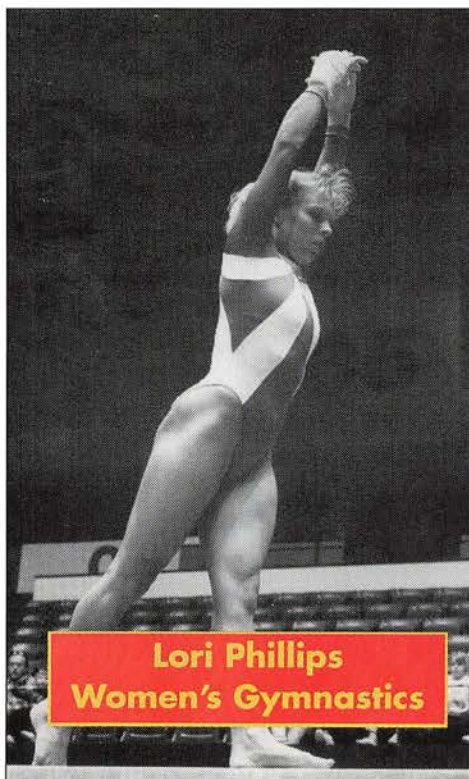
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING

1993

MARCH

- 1 WGY Masters Classic
at BDSC Arena
vs. Kansas
- 3 MBK Big Eight Championships
(O.K. City, Okla.)
- 4 S&D vs. Creighton/ NE Louisiana
State (College Station, TX.)
- 5 SB MGL Pripp Island Invite
(Pripp, S.C.)
- MWTR Cyclone Last Chance
(Ames, Iowa)
- MTN HEB Tennis Tourney
(Corpus Christi, Texas)
- 6 SB vs. Sam Houston St./ Texas-
San Antonio (College St., TX)
- WR Big Eight Championships
(Norman, Okla.)
- TWTR Husker Last Chance
(BDSC Track - Lincoln, Neb.)
- WTN vs Wichita State
- WBK Big Eight Championships
(Salina, Kan.)
- 7 SB TBA
- WGL Utah Dixie Classic
(St. George, Utah)
- MBK vs Oklahoma
- MGY vs Penn State
- 8 SB TBA
- MGL New Orleans Collegiate Inv.
(New Orleans, La.)
- 9 BSB vs. Oral Roberts
- 12 MBK Big Eight Tournament
(Kansas City, Mo.)
- MTN San Diego Team Tourney
(San Diego, Calif.)
- MWTR NCAA Championships
(Indianapolis, Ind.)
- WTN Wichita State
(Wichita, Kan.)

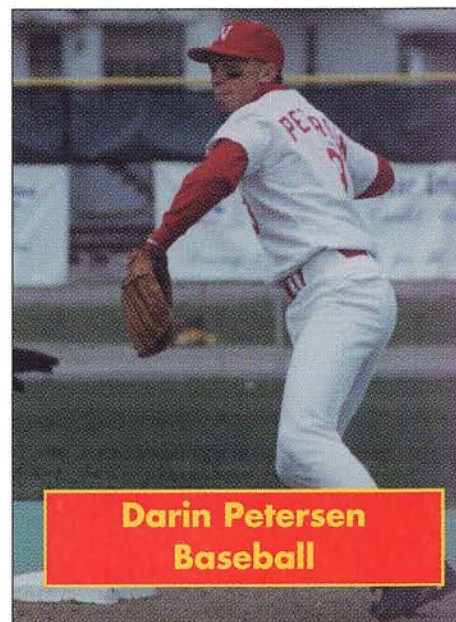


Lori Phillips
Women's Gymnastics

- 13 WTN Tulsa
(Wichita, Kan.)
- 14 SB vs. Wichita State
- MGY New Mexico
(Albuquerque, N.M.)
- WGY vs. Iowa State
(Fresno, Calif.)
- 15 BSB vs. Clemson
(Fresno, Calif.)
- 16 BSB vs. Southwest Missouri St.
(Fresno, Calif.)
- 17 BSB vs. St. Johns
(Fresno, Calif.)
- 18 BSB TBA
- WR NCAA Championships
(Ames, Iowa)
- WS&D NCAA Championships
(Minneapolis, Minn.)
- 19 BSB TBA
- WTN Cal. State Fullerton Trian.
(Fullerton, Calif.)
- MGY Big Eight Tournament
(Norman, Okla.)
- 20 BSB TBA
- WGY Big Eight Tournament
(Norman, Okla.)
- 21 SB California
(Berkeley, Calif.)
- MGL Baylor/Dr. Pepper Classic
(Dallas, Texas)
- MTN Southwest Missouri St.
(Kansas City, Mo.)
- BSB Stanford
(Palo Alto, Calif.)
- 23 SB Sacramento State
(Sacramento, Calif.)
- WTN Fresno State
(Irvine, Calif.)
- WGL Rainbow Wahine Invit.
(Honolulu, Hawaii)
- BSB New Mexico
(Albuquerque, N.M.)
- 24 BSB New Mexico
(Albuquerque, N.M.)
- WTN Long Beach State
(Long Beach, Calif.)
- 25 SB Utah State
(Sunnyvale, Calif.)
- 26 SB Michigan/Santa Clara
(Sunnyvale, Calif.)
- BSB vs. Creighton
- 27 SB TBA
- MTN vs. Drake
- BSB Creighton
(Omaha, Neb.)
- 28 BSB vs. Creighton
- SB TBA
- 29 FB **Spring Practice Begins**
- 31 BSB vs. Oklahoma State (DH)
Creighton
(Omaha, Neb.)

APRIL

- 2 WGY NCAA Midwest Regionals
(Logan, Utah)
- 2-4 BSB Oklahoma State
(Stillwater, Okla.)
- 3 MGY NCAA Regionals
(Norman, Okla.)
- MWTR Tyson Invitational
(Fayetteville, Ark.)



Darin Petersen
Baseball

- 7 BSB Iowa State
(Ames, Iowa)
- 9-11 BSB Kansas State
(Manhattan, Kan.)
- 10 MWTR vs. CSU, KSU, MU, Minn.
- 13-14 BSB vs. Kansas State
- 15 WGY NCAA Championships
(Corvallis, Ore.)
- MGY NCAA Championships
(Albuquerque, N.M.)
- 16 MWTR Kansas Relays
(Lawrence, Kan.)
- 16-17 BSB vs. Missouri
- 20-21 BSB vs. Kansas
- 23 MWTR Drake Relays
(Des Moines, Iowa)
- 23-25 BSB vs. Iowa State
- 24 FB **Spring Game**
- 26 MGL Big Eight Tournament
(Hutchinson, Kan.)
- WGL Big Eight Tournament
(Lincoln, Neb.)
- BSB vs. Peru State
- 28 BSB Missouri
(Columbia, Mo.)
- MAY**
- 1 MWTR Gopher Invitational
(Minneapolis, Minn.)
- 8 MWTR Nebraska Twilight
- 17 MWTR Big Eight Championships
(Boulder, Colo.)
- 20 BSB Big Eight Championships
(Oklahoma City, Okla.)

LEGEND

M	men's
W	women's
BK	basketball
GY	gymnastics
GL	golf
TN	tennis
SB	softball
S&D	swimming & diving
WR	wrestling
BSB	baseball
FB	football

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